Cordmaker lands General George | Blacksmith a key for Wondrwherecraigis

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Vol. 30, Issue 4
APRIL 2022

No. 1

Murmur Farm stallion Blofeld gets off to flying start in 2022

From beginning. . .

2022 3rd-Crop Sires by Progeny Earnings

Updated: March 9, 2022 6:31 AM | Data provided by equineline.com

For stallions that stand, will stand, or stood (deceased/pensioned) in the selected region and have runners in North America. Exported sires are excluded. Listed below are all available Northern

Rank	Sire	2022 Stud Fee / Farm
1	**Not This Time** Giant's Causeway (2014)	$45,000 Taylor Made Stallions, Inc., KY
2	**Laoban** Uncle Mo (2013)	Died KY
3	**Nyquist** Uncle Mo (2013)	$55,000 Darley, KY
4	**Frosted** Tapit (2012)	$20,000 Darley, KY
5	**Runhappy** Super Saver (2012)	$12,500 Claiborne Farm, KY
6	**Exaggerator** Curlin (2013)	$5,000 Elite Thoroughbreds, LA
7	**Speightster** Speightstown (2012)	$6,500 Northern Dawn Stables Inc., ON
8	**Upstart** Flatter (2012)	$10,000 Airdrie Stud, KY
9	**Mosler** War Front (2011)	$4,000 Country Life Farm, MD
10	**Mshawish** Medaglia d'Oro (2010)	$5,000 Taylor Made Stallions, Inc., KY
11	**Outwork** Uncle Mo (2013)	$10,000 WinStar Farm LLC, KY
12	**Jess's Dream** Curlin (2012)	$4,000 Ocala Stud, FL
13	**Street Strategy** Street Sense (2011)	$1,000 Lake Hamilton Equine Center, AR
14	**Uncle Lino** Uncle Mo (2013)	$4,000 Northview Stallion Station, MD
15	**Air Force Blue** War Front (2013)	Moved

MOSLER stands tall on the National scene, without the benefit of Kentucky's pool of mares...

War Front–Gold Vault
$4,000 LFSN; BC, MM

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. . . to winning

COUNTRY LIFE FARM EXACTA: CLF-bred Response Time defeats CLF's Combat Queen by a half length in $63,000 Laurel Park allowance on March 5

...sire of RESPONSE TIME, shown here winning her third consecutive overnight race to bring her 2022 earnings, including Developer's Awards, to $107,087. The $100,000 2020 FT Midlantic 2YO Sales graduate has career earnings of $167,980, with 4 wins in 13 starts.

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'But Mom.' A colt by Win Win Win tries to keep up with his dam Candystand at Country Life Farm. Mike Trombetta, who trained the Grade 1-winning sire, bred the Feb. 19 foal.

In this issue

Maryland sire Blofeld off and running

With 12 winners (and a stakes-placing) from his first 13 starters, Murmur Farm stallion Blofeld found a spot among the early national leaders in the second-crop sire standings despite a small first crop. By Joe Clancy. Page 18

Blacksmith helps Wondrwherecraigis find best form

With four wins in his last five starts (and the loss came by disqualification), Laurel Park-based Wondrwherecraigis is on a roll–right to a chance at Grade 1 glory in Dubai–for trainer Brittany Russell. Blacksmith Randy Reed and glue-on shoes get at least some credit. By Nolan Clancy. Page 22

Colonial Downs gets new owner

Virginia Thoroughbred leaders respond to the purchase of Virginia racetrack Colonial Downs by Churchill Downs Inc. By Sean Clancy. Page 32

Veteran Cordmaker lands first graded stakes

Cutting back to 7 furlongs for the first time in 18 months, Maryland-bred Cordmaker captures the Grade 3 General George at Laurel Park for Hillwood Stable and trainer Rodney Jenkins. By Joe Clancy. Page 40

Cover: Blofeld, who shook up the early sire standings of 2022, takes a stroll with Jose Macias at Murmur Farm. Photo by Sara Gordon.

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BLOFELD

Quality Road–Storm Minstrel (Storm Cat)

George Adams photo

LEADING SECOND-CROP SIRE IN THE NATION BY % WINNERS & AVERAGE EARNINGS/STARTER

TOP TEN SECOND-CROP SIRE BY EARNINGS

~~~~~

13 STARTERS – 12 WINNERS

INCLUDING STAKES-PLACED **BEACH DAZE**

Second $100,000 Main Line S on March 8 at Parx

~~~~~

BLOFELD Multiple G2 winner of $745,420. Undefeated at 2. By sire of sires Quality Road, from an outstanding sire family that includes leading sires **GUN RUNNER** and **SAINT LIAM**.

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FULL BROTHER to burgeoning superstar at stud, **GUN RUNNER**,
The **ONLY SON** of **CANDY RIDE** in Maryland.

Photo by Jim McCue

Alottahope wins an AOC at Laurel Park

EDITORIAL

Half to Uncle Mo

Stands for **$2,500**

2 stakes horses from 4 starters. **My Thoughts** 2nd in the **Maryland Million Lassie S.** and **Alottahope** 2nd in the **Maryland Juvenile Championship.**

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POST TIME

PONY POWER. Action, and learning, took to the track at Maryland's Merryland Farm for the U.S. Pony Racing Clinic in advance of the 2022 spring season Feb. 27. *Ellen Pons photo*

Say It Again

"Not exactly."
Trainer Ham Smith, on whether Luna Belle's last-to-first win in the Wide Country went exactly to plan

"I get nervous for a maiden 10, so I am not a good barometer on nervousness."
Eveline Kjelstrup, assistant trainer to Rodney Jenkins, on whether watching Cordmaker in the General George made her nervous

"If they take me down on this one, I will retire . . . today."
Jockey Victor Carrasco, after a conversation with the stewards following Cordmaker's win in the General George; Cordmaker stayed up, and Carrasco is still riding

"I was even down on my belly riding."
Owner Bird Mobberley, on what it was like to watch Galerio win by a nose in the John B. Campbell Stakes

"He wouldn't hurt anybody. He doesn't have a mean bone in his body and is a wonderful horse to be around."
Murmur Farm owner Audrey Murray, about stallion Blofeld's demeanor

"As a pedigree geek . . ."
Housatonic Bloodstock's George Adams, just before launching into an explanation of Blofeld's two crosses with breed-shaping broodmare Grey Flight deep in his pedigree

JERRY DZIERWINSKI

No Nails. **Hanton glue-on shoes get attached to a horse's hoof using outer tabs, removable plastic blister covers and a special adhesive. They're part of the key to the recent success of stakes horse Wondrwherecraigis. See page 22 for more.**

NAMES OF THE MONTH

Someday Is Today. Twice a winner at Charles Town this year for owner Andrew Warren, the 4-year-old West Virginia-bred filly is by Carpe Diem out of Any Day Now.

Smart Tart. Bred and owned by RH Breeding, the 4-year-old Pennsylvania-bred daughter of Smarty Jones and Lemon Strudel broke her maiden at Penn National in February.

GO FIGURE

24 Years between Maryland-bred winners of the General George Stakes-G3, a signature race in the state since 1973. Royal Haven won the 1998 running for New York-based trainer Gasper Moschera and owner Barbara Davis. Royal Haven was claimed from breeder Bob Manfuso—the co-breeder of 2022 winner Cordmaker—by Moschera for $75,000 at Saratoga in 1995 and wound up winning four graded stakes and earning $891,501.

2 Laurel stakes mares withdrawn from the Keeneland January sale by Three Diamonds Farm, Nellie Morse and Geisha winner Kiss the Girl and Barbara Fritchie-G3 runner-up Jakarta.

505 Horses (representing 482 trainers) entered in the 2022 Thoroughbred Makeover. The Retired Racehorse Project's signature event is scheduled for Oct. 12-15 at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington.

16 Stakes scheduled for Preakness Weekend at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore May 20-21. Saturday's 147th Preakness highlights the weekend at $1.5 million and as the second jewel in the Triple Crown. The card includes the $250,000 Dinner Party-G2, $200,000 Chick Lang-G3 and $150,000 Maryland Sprint-G3. The 98th George E. Mitchell Black-Eyed Susan-G2, at $250,000, headlines Friday's card, which includes the $300,000 Pimlico Special-G3 and $150,000 Allaire duPont-G3. The Preakness Meet at Pimlico runs May 12-31.

Grateful Bred on the mend

Trainer Madison Meyers said it so matter-of-factly, "We had our little incident at Aqueduct . . ." The statement prompted a quick, "What incident?" and Meyers tried to explain what happened to stable star Grateful Bred before a scheduled race late last year.

November's $150,000 Aqueduct Turf Sprint was meant to be the Maryland-bred's final start of 2021—a shot at a big payday and some more notoriety before a winter break. Instead, the trip to New York wound up being a borderline nightmare as Grateful Bred broke through the starting gate, got loose and was scratched.

"He got banged up and cut his leg pretty badly," said Meyers. "Our guess is he kicked through the back of the gate. He had to have a bunch of stitches and spent the night in the clinic up there."

Meyers credited the care from veterinarians and the crew on the NYRA starting gate and horse ambulance with helping make the experience as positive as possible. Grateful Bred spent the winter with the Meyers string at Virginia's Middleburg Training Center and was back in work for the start of turf season this year.

JERRY DZIERWINSKI

"He's fine now, training, galloping, back on the track and the leg looks great," Meyers said. "He looks like a million bucks. We were pretty lucky in the end."

The 6-year-old son of Great Notion and the Malibu Moon mare Malibu Moment has won five of 11 lifetime starts (two stakes) and earned $224,015.

THE RACING BIZ

The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

For Eric and Nancy Rizer, racing's a family affair: Virginia-based owner-breeders Eric and Nancy Rizer, whose barn includes the speedy Princess Kokachin, have turned racing into a true family affair. Jennifer Kelly reports.

In Maryland, time to make a splash: Frank Vespe opines that four of Maryland's linchpin stakes are less prominent than they were 10 or 15 years ago is a problem that requires fixing: it's time to make a splash.

For Anthony Farrior, good owners key to growing success: After a strong 2021 campaign, trainer Anthony Farrior has kicked off 2022 with a major run of Charles Town success that he attributes to his owners. Ted Black reports.

Video—Laurel Park in 60 seconds: Catch the highlights of three of the weekend's top Laurel stories in (a little more than) a minute.

Backtracks—Safely Kept, stone-cold runner: Maryland-bred and -sired Safely Kept came from relatively modest beginnings to earn every accolade imaginable, writes Kelly.

EST. 2019
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Returned: To $1 million, the purse of the Charles Town Classic-G2. To be run Aug. 26 as part of the richest card in the history of West Virginia track Charles Town, the Classic carried a $1 million purse for its first 11 runnings but was decreased the past two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This year's Classic card will include the $500,000 Charles Town Oaks-G3, three $250,000 stakes and two $75,000 West Virginia-bred stakes. The big night highlights a 174-day schedule at the track for 2022—Wednesday through Saturday in March, April and May, and Thursday, Friday and Saturday from June through December. Post time for all but Classic Night (5 p.m.) is 7 p.m. The full stakes lineup will reach $3,450,000, not including the Oct. 8 West Virginia Breeders Classics night (purses to be announced, but headlined by the Sam Huff West Virginia Breeders Classic). The stakes program starts April 23 with the Original Gold and Confucius Say stakes. The lineup includes the renamed Randy Funkhouser Memorial Nov. 12.

Launched: A standalone digital auction platform, Fasig-Tipton Digital, the Fasig-Tipton sales company with the first sale slated for March 17-22. "We are excited to officially launch Fasig-Tipton Digital, which will serve as a complement to our traditional live auction calendar," said Fasig-Tipton President Boyd Browning. "The Thoroughbred business is increasingly focused on creating liquidity by selling horses at opportune times, and this platform allows us to serve the marketplace by facilitating those transactions. Our approach will be the same as it is for a live auction—establish a quality marketplace for buyers and sellers, supported by the outstanding customer service that our clients have to come expect from Fasig-Tipton." For more see digital.fasigtipton.com or call (859) 255-1555.

Ready: For an expanded 2022 schedule, the Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Championships Series with its slate of regional stakes and bonus money for participating owners, trainers and breeders. The 2022 schedule will include stops at Parx Racing, Penn National, Laurel Park and Colonial Downs with four divisions for 3-year-olds and up—male sprint, female sprint, male turf and female turf. The program includes five stakes in each division with races April 16 and 23 at Laurel, June 14 at Parx, June 17 at Penn National, July 16 at Laurel, Aug. 16 at Colonial and championship day at Parx Oct. 3. Total bonus money available is more than $400,000. For more see matchseries.com.

Announced: A $3.5 million stakes schedule at Colonial Downs 2022 summer meet, highlighted by the 19th Virginia Derby-G3. The 27-day racing season kicks off July 11, with 24 stakes over the nine-week campaign, 20 of which are scheduled for the Secretariat Turf Course, the widest grass racing surface in the country. Racing will take place Monday, Tuesday

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BOURBON COURAGE
Lion Heart–Shine Forth, by Carson City

LEADING MID-ATLANTIC THIRD-CROP SIRE by percentage of Blacktype performers

G2-winning, multiple G1-placed millionaire. 60% winners/starters & 10% stakes horses include MSW and MG3 performer **DOUBLE CROWN** ($250,235), **FORTHELUVOFBOURBON** ($265,200), **RAGING WHISKEY** (G3-placed), etc. 2020 2YOs sold for up to 67-times his 2020 stud fee.

$2,500 LFSN, BC & MM

EDITORIAL
War Front–Playa Maya, by Arch

HALF-BROTHER TO LEADING SIRE UNCLE MO

Allowance-winning son of proven sire of sires **WAR FRONT**, from an undeniable family. Sire of Maryland Juvenile Championship-placed **Alottahope** and Maryland Million Lassie-placed **My Thoughts** in first crop. **66% winners!**

$2,500 LFSN, BC & MM

FORTUNE TICKET
Candy Ride (Arg)–Quiet Giant, by Giant's Causeway

FULL BROTHER TO 2021 LEADING FRESHMAN SIRE GUN RUNNER

First-crop sire **GUN RUNNER** has nearly twice the earners of his closest competitor in the 2021 freshman sire race. Horse of the Year earned over $15.9 million. Two-time winner Fortune Ticket is from a solid sire-producing Ned Evans family.

$2,500 LFSN, BC & MM

HOLY BOSS
Street Boss–Holy Grace, by Holy Bull

MULTIPLE SIX-FIGURE 2-YEAR-OLDS

First-crop sire of **Sparkle Sprinkle** (2 wins, 3rd Maryland Million Lassie), **Sol Y Boss (Arg), Sale Boss (Arg),** and **My Boss**. Blistering fast Saratoga G2 winner & MG1-placed. On the board in 18 of 22 starts, earning $771,527. 100+ Beyers in the G1 Breeders' Cup Sprint, G1 Vanderbilt, G1 King's Bishop, etc. Brilliant gate speed.

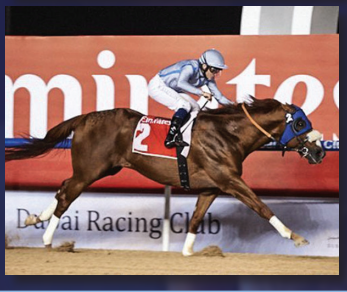
$2,500 LFSN, BC & MM

IMAGINING
Giant's Causeway–Daydreaming, by A.P. Indy

SIRE OF MARYLAND MILLION CLASSIC WINNER IN HIS FIRST CROP

Sire of **MONDAY MORNING QB** ($245,155, Maryland Million Classic, Heft S, G3-placed), Maryland Million-placed horses **Quiet Imagination** and **Claire's Darling**, plus **Bogey's Image**. G1-winning millionaire with SIX 100+ Beyers from a stacked Phipps family.

$2,500 LFSN, BC & MM



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MILESTONES

and Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. through Sept. 7. Daily average purses will rise to $600,000 from $522,000 in 2021. The $300,000 Virginia Derby headlines the Tuesday, Sept. 6 card which includes four undercard turf stakes–the $200,000 Virginia Oaks, $150,000 Da Hoss and the Rosie's and Kitten's Joy, both with a $125,000 purse.

Rescinded: Rule 14C of The Jockey Club's Principal Rules and Requirements of the American Studbook that addressed limitations to mares bred per stallion. The rule attempted to limit the annual mares bred by an individual stallion whose birth year is 2020 or thereafter to 140 in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. A similar rule was first proposed in September 2019 before being adopted in May 2020, following extensive public comment. The rule had not gone into effect since the affected future stallions are just 2-year-olds of 2022. The Jockey Club faced challenges to the rule via a lawsuit filed by Spendthrift Farm, Three Chimneys and Coolmore in addition to legislation proposed in Kentucky to prohibit such a rule. "The Jockey Club board of stewards is rescinding this rule as it is concerned that the reaction to the rule may divide the industry at a time when there are many important issues that need to be addressed with unity," said Stuart S. Janney III, chairman of The Jockey Club. "We are taking this action for the greater good of the entire industry."

Named: As the 2022 winner of Santa Anita's George Woolf Memorial Jockey Award, longtime New Jersey-based jockey Joe Bravo. A winner of 5,530 races through March 10, the New Jersey native was a regular in the Mid-Atlantic and perennial leader at Monmouth Park before moving to California last year. Voted on by jockeys, the Woolf Award honors those whose careers and personal character compliment the sport. Bravo started riding in 1988 and won Grade 1 stakes aboard Blue Prize (Arg), Big Blue Kitten, A.P. Indian, Little Mike and Sheer Drama among others. Bravo was to receive the award in a March 27 ceremony at Santa Anita. Hall of Famer Woolf, who rode Seabiscuit to victory over War Admiral in the 1938 match race, died in 1946 from injuries sustained in a fall at Santa Anita.

Hello Again. **Maryland trainer Kevin Boniface visited old friend Oliver's Twist in Colorado in February. The Bonita Farm-bred 30-year-old won a graded stakes, earned $508,915 and placed second (by a half-length) in the 1995 Preakness.**

Virginia Racing and Breeding just gets *better*

Breeders

Foal your mare in Virginia and earn bonuses for ANY WIN in North America, including NSA-sanctioned races.
In 2021, breeders received 32% bonuses on the winning purses their VA-breds earned in North America.

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- FIVE $125,000 Stakes for VA-bred and VA-sired horses
- SIX VA Restricted Stakes where VA-bred, VA-sired run for $150,000 *(VA-certified run for $100,000)*
- Earn 50% bonus on purses for 1st thru 4th in all open races (no owner bonuses are earned for VA restricted races)
- More restricted overnight races than ever before.

Virginia-Certified Developers

Developers of VA-Certified horses earn a 25% bonus for any win in the Mid-Atlantic, including NSA-sanctioned meets*. Developers earn 10% bonus in WV restricted races.

To be certified, horse must complete a minimum 6-month VA residency prior to December 31 of its 2YO year.
Developer is the owner of the horse in its first career start.
**Developer bonuses are only paid for wins in open races at Colonial Downs*

Virginia-Certified Owners

At Colonial Downs, VA-certified are eligible for:
SIX $100,000 VA Restricted Stakes AND MORE restricted overnight races than ever before
To be certified, horse must complete a minimum 6-month VA residency prior to December 31 of its 2YO year.

See VaBred.org for program details or contact the Virginia Thoroughbred Association at 434-977-3716

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2ND Woody Stephens S.-**G2**, Amsterdam S.-**G3** (**100 Beyer**), etc.

4TH Breeders' Cup Sprint-**G1** (**104 Beyer**, defeating **FIRENZE FIRE**), H. Allen Jerkens S.-**G1**, etc.

By **INTO MISCHIEF**:
- Champion Sire 2019-2021
- Sons at stud include **PRACTICAL JOKE** and **AUTHENTIC**
- 2022 top runners include **LIFE IS GOOD** and **MANDALOUN**

NEW FOR 2022

GALAWI

DUBAWI (IRE) – GALIKOVA (FR), *by Galileo (IRE)* | *$2,000 LF*

Son of the World's Leading Sire DUBAWI
Out of a 1/2-Sister to GOLDIKOVA

In only U.S. start, rallied to win Belmont Maiden Special Weight

By Champion/Classic Winner/Top International Sire **DUBAWI (IRE)**
- Sire of **8** champions, including **2021** Eclipse Champion Turf Male, **YIBIR**
- **40+** G1SWs, **140+** GSWs, **3** Breeders' Cup Winners in **2021**

Out of **G1** Winner **GALIKOVA (FR)**
- Won 2YO debut
- Won three Group stakes, including prestigious **G1** Prix Vermeille

Out of a 1/2-Sister to Multiple Champion **GOLDIKOVA (IRE)**
- Member of Racing Hall of Fame. Breeders' Cup Mile-**G1** winner 2008, 2009, & 2010
- 14-time **G1** winner
- Two-time Eclipse Award winner, European Horse of the Year, twice European Champion Older Horse

Under the Second Dam:
24 Stakes Horses, **11** which are Graded SWs, including **6** Grade 1 Performers

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PHOTOS: EQUI-PHOTO, COGLIANESE

Sermon of Love

Mel Williams with her longtime mount, Grade 1-winning steeplechaser Sermon of Love.

MAGGIE KIMMITT

After steeplechaser Sermon of Love won the Jonathan Kiser Novice Stakes and New York Turf Writers Cup-G1 in 2010, trainer Jonathan Sheppard casually told the press, "He seems to like Saratoga."

But as Sheppard's former long-tenured assistant Jim Bergen remembered, the Turf Writers was "touch and go" for Sermon of Love and stablemate Arcadius. Sheppard was in New York with his string for the Saratoga meet but opted to leave the veterans at Ashwell Stables in Pennsylvania for their final work.

"I think he was a bit nervous about it in that he couldn't be there for the work in the Hundred Acre Field," Bergen said of a well-known Sheppard training ground. "Frank Steall set the pace on Sermon and Brian Crowley was on Arcadius. They worked perfectly and, more importantly, were sound the following day."

Bergen shipped the geldings back to Saratoga's storied Oklahoma Annex for the 2⅜-mile race Aug. 26.

"They ran one/two with Crowley on Sermon," said Bergen of a sweep over eventual Eclipse Award winner Slip Away and future champion Divine Fortune. "It was pretty gratifying."

Sermon of Love began his career as a 3-year-old in 2006. Bred in Kentucky by Pennsylvanian F. Eugene Dixon Jr., the son of Pulpit and the Ascot Knight mare Plenty of Sugar made four winless starts on the flat before switching to hurdles for Jack Fisher (with Dixon's wife Edie the owner) that October. He won his third start, the Raymond G. Woolfe Memorial on the Colonial Cup card at Camden, S.C.

In a steeplechase rarity, he changed hands in the auction ring as Danny Pate paid $62,000 for the 4-year-old at Keeneland January. Pate thought about keeping the horse, but an offer from Sheppard owner Calvin Houghland sent Sermon of Love from one powerhouse steeplechase barn to another.

"He came pretty highly touted," Bergen said. "But he wasn't particularly easy to ride. If something caught his eye, he'd drop you like third period French."

The purchase didn't pay immediate dividends as Sermon of Love lost 15 consecutive races—but placed in three stakes—through May 2009. His first win for Houghland came at Penn National in

an allowance over hurdles July 3, 2009, followed a month later by a maiden win on the flat at Saratoga to help jockey Danielle Hodsdon complete a rare double of winning a flat race and a jump race at the meet.

When Houghland passed away at 93 that fall, Bill Pape purchased Sermon of Love. Sermon of Love came to form at Saratoga the next summer, and won the two stakes. Sheppard was right, the horse really did like the Spa with three of his five wins (plus a second and two thirds) coming at the historic track. Pulled up in his 42nd and final start there in 2012, he retired with $290,351 earned.

And found his person. Mel Williams regularly rode Sermon of Love at Ashwell, and came to mind quickly when Pape and Sheppard considered retirement options.

"He was one of my favorites," Williams said. "I broke my leg badly in 2010, and he was one of the first horses I got back riding and breezing. He's a little quirky–they used to call him 'Squirmin Sermon.' Jogging roads with him, you had to be very patient. But he was always a cool dude."

Recognizing Williams' rapport with the horse, Sheppard provided opportunities–they won a flat race at the Queen's Cup in 2009 and were third in a 3-mile amateur hurdle at the Iroquois a few weeks later.

"It was really boggy and I probably didn't give him the best ride," Williams said of the latter, "but he stuck it out to the end, and we picked up a check. It came to be that he wasn't competing at the same level, and he had a slight injury in the right hind. Jonathan knew that I loved him and wanted him to have a good home."

She gave him six months off and then put him back to work. And there's very little he hasn't done in the past nine years–foxhunting, team chases, hunter trials, timber and cross-country schooling.

Now the Fair Hill Training Center assistant to trainer Mike Trombetta, Williams and her husband, jockey Jhonatan Mendoza, are new parents to son Denny, born last fall. Her mother, Sharon Smiley, happily filled in and kept Sermon of Love active during the pregnancy. Williams boards the horse at Breezewood, a farm just a few miles from Fair Hill. The property backs up to Fair Hill's cross-country course, offering miles of trails.

"Whenever they have schooling at Fair Hill, I just hack right through the woods," Williams said. "The horses thrive here. He lives off of grass, they cut their own hay, he gets a couple scoops of pelleted feed a day. He likes to be by himself. He gets a little on the muscle when he's in company. But he's mellowed."

"Somewhat!" Smiley chimed in, laughing. "Well, I'm 70 and sometimes I get on him and I say why am I on this horse? But he takes good care of me; he's very surefooted and he's got a lovely mouth. You ride him with a light hand. He's great on the trail; he moves out. He's kind of like a sports car–very sensitive controls."

The 19-year-old munched grass at the end of a shank as Williams and Smiley talked about him.

"When things quiet down a bit," Williams said, "I'd like to get back on him more myself. I've just had fun with him. He's still such a cool dude."

"Most importantly," Bergen said, "Mel Williams loved him and gave him a great life. That's probably the best part of this story." ◆

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TOD MARKS

Blofeld makes case for future of regional sires

Now hear this, I'm no pedigree expert. But breeders might want to start paying attention to Maryland stallion Blofeld.

The young sire went on a run to start 2022, pushing his statistics to a ridiculous 12 winners from 13 starters (92.3 percent) and average earnings per starter of $28,468 in his first crop through March 13. The win total put him in the national top 10 among second-crop sires, with fewer than one-quarter the chances of some, by progeny earnings. Kentucky-based stallions Practical Joke (66 starters), Gun Runner (47), Cupid (59) and Keen Ice (59) rank above Blofeld, but he's in there swinging.

And hitting. His sons and daughters Beach Daze, Gamestonks, Crabs N Beer, Charming Way, Goldenize, Miss Casey, Royal Spy, Blo My Budget, My Dixie Lass, Road Party, Orashi and Oak Hill Lg won in 2021 and 2022. Only Vinny was still a maiden as of March 13, and he placed twice and missed a start when Laurel Park canceled due to weather March 12.

I know, I know . . . small sample size . . . but do you really want to take that stance? With Blofeld's entire second crop yet to race? The gray son of Quality Road could be America's, or at least the region's, next phenom. He might also be Murmur Farm's next big name–following the likes of Our Emblem, Deerhound, Norquestor and others. The Murray family's Darlington operation doesn't get ahead of itself, but once hosted Hollywood for a scene in *xXx: State of the Union*, complete with exploding barn doors so–hey–you never know. Blofeld could be a blockbuster.

See page 18 for more, and forgive my optimism in those previous four paragraphs. I know fairytales–while not impossible–aren't exactly common in Thoroughbred racing. Stars are stars. Big names usually stay that way. Blofeld's chances at stallion stardom might not be any better than the other up-and-comers in the Mid-Atlantic.

And that's the shame of it. Most regional stallions, sorry, won't get bred to enough mares to have fair chances at national success. There will be blips of progress, a breakthrough horse now and then, some grind-it-out numbers, a few Kentucky transplants with big books behind them, even a young buck like Blofeld who shakes things up. But Blofeld's second and third crops aren't any bigger than his first, and he can't possibly continue to produce winners at 92 percent. Any momentum he gets from 2022 in terms of additional mares won't be felt until 2025 or 2026. By then, there might be another Blofeld making noise.

I root for all the regional stallions and would walk a mile barefoot in the snow to make a case to breed to one of my favorite horses of all-time Imagining, but the business can be all uphill. Just look at Blofeld's rivals near the top of the second-crop leaderboard. Every other horse in the top 10 has at least 128 foals in his first two crops. Blofeld? Forty-three. Fellow regional stallions Divining Rod (86), Madefromlucky (64) and Holy Boss (68) were making a stand, but still well behind the big national names. Lists of all stallions show an even bigger concentration at the top.

Quality prevails, I get it. I heard the college lectures about free enterprise and supply and demand just like everyone else, but the North American Thoroughbred foal crop was 38,365 in 2005 and was estimated to be 19,200 in 2021. At the same time, books for top stallions have expanded–meaning it's more difficult than ever to attract mares to regional stallions.

While helping regional stallions wasn't exactly the goal, The Jockey Club tried to implement a cap on mares bred by individual stallions. The number was going to be 140 a year, based on 27 percent of all stallions exceeding that total in 2019 compared to 9.5 percent in 2007. Of course, some big farms sued, and the Kentucky state legislature even put forward a bill hinting at the creation of a new breed registry, so the rule was rescinded before it ever got started.

Probably doomed from the start (I'll leave that to legal minds), the rule was a noble goal. If part of The Jockey Club's mission is to preserve the Thoroughbred breed, shouldn't sire books be part of the discussion? And if an actual cap on the number isn't at least part of the answer, then what is?

Blofeld and I would like to know. ◆

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GEORGE ADAMS

ON A ROLL

Blofeld's success spurs excitement at Murmur Farm

By Joe Clancy

Years ago, *Maryland Horse* editor Snowden Carter interviewed Murmur Farm's Audrey Murray about the Thoroughbred business.

"I'm not really a gambler," Murray said of the risk behind plunking down a few dollars based on a horse's chances to win a given race.

Carter begged to differ.

"I would say you are," he replied. "Picking out these studs, putting all this money into them and hoping they can make it. That's gambling."

Murray bet on Blofeld in 2017, and might be holding a big ticket as the young stallion rocketed through the early months of 2022 with 12 winners from 13 starters in his first crop through March 13. The success charged the early breeding season at Murmur, a 131-acre family farm in Darlington, Md., with a lengthy record of stallion success.

"It's been kind of quiet for us for a few years and now to have something exciting happen is good," said Murray. "It's so hard to stand a new horse, it's expensive, risky."

A gamble.

With $370,086 in progeny earnings, Blofeld was 10th on the North American list of second-crop sires thanks to that gaudy 92.3 percent winners-to-starters ratio. Of course, 2-year-olds had yet to start in 2022 so the leaderboard actually measures first-crop performance and Blofeld was up there with Mastery (38 starters), Midnight Storm (32), Gormley (41), Keen Ice (59), Unified (38) and American Freedom (48). Fellow Marylander Divining Rod was a few spots behind Blofeld with $318,667, but got there with 25 starters. Blofeld led all second-crop sires in average earnings per starter with $28,468. The 12 winners were fifth on the list–behind Cupid, Classic Empire, Keen Ice and Practical Joke (each with more than triple the starters).

All the statistics call to mind spring-training batting averages, with the small sample sizes and the potential for sudden swings in either direction, but there's no disputing Blofeld's quick start and growing list of admirers.

"I'm getting calls every day about sending mares," Murray said. "People that were debating are now breeding two mares to him. One person wants to breed five mares. We're getting a lot of action. It's exciting."

She even said she turned down a couple offers to sell Blofeld outright, preferring to keep Murmur in the stallion business. Started by Audrey and her husband Allen in 1961, Murmur is in its second location and counts among its stallion history the likes of Norquestor, Deerhound, Our Emblem and Louis Quatorze. Allen Murray died in 2013, but Murmur continues and has stayed loyal to the mission of developing young stallions who appeal to Mid-Atlantic breeders. Blofeld fit the model after a 14-start racing career. The son of Quality Road won all three races (two graded stakes) as a juvenile, ran just twice as a 3-year-old, won the Gulfstream Park Handicap-G2 at 4 and then lost his next seven. The $225,000 2-year-old purchase owned by JSM Equine and the Greathouse family's Glencrest Farm might have been a borderline stallion prospect for Kentucky. He fit for Maryland, especially with the female family behind him.

Blofeld's first three dams were bred in Virginia by Ned Evans. First dam Storm Minstrel (by Storm Cat) won multiple stakes and produced seven winners. Second dam Colonial Minstrel (Pleasant Colony) won graded stakes and produced five winners. Third dam Minstrella (The Minstrel) was champion 2-year-old in Ireland, won three Group 1 stakes and produced 11 winners. Further back, the pedigree extends to 1940s Maryland-bred star Gallorette and even leading second-crop sire Gun Runner.

"I was looking for a stallion and I had followed him a little bit when he was racing and then he won that big race at 4 and I felt like I was never going to get him," Murray said. "We made an offer and they took it and then the Quality Roads started hitting big time."

Murray said she turned down an offer to sell half and stand Blofeld in Kentucky, and stuck to the plan. She sold shares, kept some for Murmur and gambled on a new stallion. A member of Quality Road's first crop foaled in 2012, Blofeld bred 35 mares in 2018, attracted 33 in 2019 and 28 in 2020. Last year, it was 27.

Murray appreciated the business, and is proud of her horse, but also knows there's a long way to go.

"There's a lot involved and you hope you can get enough stud fees and stallion bonuses and things to make it work," she said. "It's all delayed too. You don't get the stallion fees until the foals are born and you don't get any stallion bonuses until the horses start running and they've got to run well. I tell people that the shares are like buying stock. You hope that you can be paid back with the stallion bonuses, but it's really three or four years before that happens."

Blofeld got on the board in October when Crabs N Beer became the stallion's first winner in a $20,000 maiden claimer at Delaware Park. The next month, Blofeld sired two winners on the same day when Gamestonks and Royal Spy won at Laurel Park Nov. 26. The success started early and kept coming this year with five wins in January and seven in February. Improbably, he hit another daily double when Gamestonks and Charming Way won at Laurel Feb. 26.

"There's some luck to it, but a stallion has to earn it and he's clearly doing it this year," said George Adams of Housatonic Bloodstock. "[Twelve winners from 13 runners], I don't care how short the time

BARRIE B. REIGHTLER

Audrey Murray took the gamble on new stallion Blofeld back in 2017.

frame is, that's an incredible number. The foals on the ground are nice, he's gorgeous, they're running on the track. It's kind of fascinating."

Adams' clients bred two mares to Blofeld the first year. One didn't get in foal. The second produced Blo My Budget, a maiden special weight winner at Penn National for Wasabi Ventures Stables Feb. 16. Adams expects to send three or four mares this year. It's a long way from his first exposure to the horse.

"I was at the Timonium yearling sale the year before he entered stud and saw his stallion register page tacked to a stall door and it caught my eye," Adams said. "He was an interesting horse as a stallion prospect, and I hadn't heard anything about him being retired let alone coming to Murmur. He fit right in with the other good, young stallions to start here lately–Imagining, Bourbon Courage, Mosler, Divining Rod, the horses Northview [Stallion Station] has brought in.

"One of these young stallions needs to step up. Great Notion won't be around forever. I thought it was going to be Golden Lad for a while and it still might be. Divining Rod is making some progress. Why can't it be Blofeld? He needs a black-type horse or two at some point, but clearly they're hitting their stride."

As if on cue, New Jersey-bred Beach Daze finished second in a stakes at Parx March 8 to give Blofeld his first black-type runner.

Virginia-based trainer Madison Meyers knows that first-hand after Maryland-bred Charming Way won at Laurel Feb. 26. The Melissa Cantacuzene homebred finished second in her debut in December and again Jan. 28 (behind another Blofeld filly, Miss Casey) before breaking through to complete a Blofeld late double started by Gamestonks for trainer Brittany Russell one race earlier.

"When she arrived, I was not familiar with Blofeld and Melissa is a shareholder so I was like, 'OK, I need to know a little more about this horse,'" Meyers said. "Quality Road . . . my dad used to be business partners with the Greathouses . . . Gamestonks I noticed because I deal with Brittany a little bit. Then hers won and ours won the next race."

Meyers liked Charming Way from the start, as much for her attitude as anything else.

"Great brain, lovely to watch train from day one," she said. "She has done a lot of growing and developing, and changes often. She's got a strong personality, everything has to be on her terms on the ground, but racing-wise or training-wise she's versatile enough, patient and does whatever you want her to do."

Meyers has a 2-year-old colt in her barn at Middleburg Training Center, too, and likes what she sees. The trainer also expects the Blofelds to adapt to longer races, too.

"I can't wait to stretch mine out," she said of Charming Way. "The only reason I shortened her up in her second start [6 furlongs to 5½] was because we got hit with some hard weather and ran out of the shedrow. We decided to run if we couldn't get a strong work into her and she ran great. His 3-year-olds, people are running short because of the condition book probably. I would guess a lot of them would be stretching out."

Murray flies the Blofeld banner on the racetrack too as the owner/breeder of 2021 winner Royal Spy and 2022 winner Goldenize.

The latter is the first winner for Murmur mare Golden Innis, a full-sister to Murmur's five-time stakes winner Celtic Innis. While nobody is predicting that kind of a career–nine wins, 24 placings, $648,638 earned–for Blofeld's babies just yet, Murray will gladly go along for the ride as owner, breeder and stallion owner.

"We were driving home one day after winning a race, Allen and I, and I asked 'What do people do for excitement that don't have racehorses?'" she said of a day in the past with her husband. "That's still the way I feel. There are a lot of down days, but we try to enjoy the good days and good moments."

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Gotta be the shoes

Blacksmith Reed helps Wondrwherecraigis find full potential

By Nolan Clancy. Photographs by Jerry Dzierwinski

Immediately after Wondrwherecraigis wired the field in Laurel Park's Fire Plug Stakes Jan. 29, trainer Brittany Russell made a phone call.

On the other line was third-generation blacksmith Randy Reed, someone Russell credits with the success of her star sprinter.

"I don't know how you got this horse here today," Russell told him. "It's amazing."

Reed gives "Craig," as he's known around the barn, personalized care every time the blacksmith visits Russell's Laurel shedrow—part of an individualized, problem-solving approach to shoeing racehorses.

"We consult probably two to three hours a week on [Russell's] barn," Reed said. "What the groom says, what the hotwalker says, everybody's opinion matters."

Reed, 40, can talk about farriery like a physicist might expound on a rocket launch, analyzing details all the way down to the pressure on each foot when a Thoroughbred runs at full speed—900 pounds per square inch, he says.

The Fire Plug, won by 3¾ lengths while setting every fraction, gave Wondrwherecraigis four wins from his previous five starts—the lone defeat coming via disqualification in the Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash-G3 at Laurel in September. Bigger things beckon for the 5-year-old, though much will depend on his feet. The son of Munnings and the Giant's Causeway mare Social Assassin has dealt with nagging minor foot issues throughout his career, making Reed's approach that much more important to the success.

A quarter crack, a split of the outside wall of a horse's hoof, prompted Russell to scratch Wondrwherecraigis from the Gravesend Stakes at Aqueduct in December. The gelding follows a fairly light schedule as it is, with races carefully

Randy Reed gets ready to go to work at Laurel Park, where he's at least partly responsible for the success of stakes winner Wondrwherecraigis (below winning the Fire Plug Jan. 29) with Hanton glue-on shoes visible on his front feet. Opposite, the sprinter also sports pads in addition to glue-on shoes.

spaced and chosen, and spent nearly nine months away from the races from August 2020 until May 2021. After winning the Bold Ruler-G3 in late October, he missed the Gravesend but returned to take the Fire Plug only to skip Laurel's winter showcase, the General George-G3 Feb. 19, just because the timing was tight.

"It's challenging when you have a little bit of pressure around you when you scratch him for a problem," said Russell, "and everybody kind of knew it was a quarter crack."

Reed said the injury can be especially common in some of the fastest horses he works with.

"Most of your better horses, because they train harder, are heavier," Reed said. "They hit the ground harder, faster. They tend to have more feet issues."

Reed started his apprenticeship when he was 20 under his grandfather John Reed Sr. The Reed family took care of trainer Tim Ritchey's horses, including future champion 3-year-old Afleet Alex.

JIM MCCUE

FUELED BY The Mill

John Reed Sr. died in 2004, shortly after Afleet Alex broke his maiden at Delaware Park. The blacksmith was buried with a set of Afleet Alex's shoes—about a year before he won the Preakness Stakes-G1 and Belmont Stakes-G1.

"We just knew Alex was a special horse," Randy Reed said.

Following John Reed Sr.'s death, Randy's father Eugene took over the work for Ritchey's stable, where Russell also spent time, with Randy finishing up his apprenticeship.

After going off on his own, Randy Reed worked for Joe Sharp, Bret Calhoun, Anthony Farrior and others, picking up new techniques and technology all the while, and singling out Sharp for jump-starting the business. Now, Reed is the senior blacksmith as he's assisted by Manaul Lopez, who is finishing up a traditional five-year blacksmith's apprenticeship.

To help Wondrwherecraigis, Reed applies Hanton glue-on shoes made by Broadline Farrier Solutions, allowing him to add a full rubber pad protecting the bottom of the foot. The shoes protect a horse's feet from concussion bruises, as well as any difficulties with frozen chunks of ground away from the racetrack. For context, the Fire Plug was run in somewhere near 20 degrees.

Glue-on shoes are increasingly popular in the racing world, mainly used on horses who don't respond well to traditional nail-on shoes. The option has been around for 20 years or more, with early work done by Rob Sigafoos at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center, but glue-on shoes continue to improve and change with technology, experience and time.

Hanton and some others use a clip or tab system, where two outer aluminum or steel (depending on the shoe) tabs are attached to the shoe. A blacksmith fits and places the shoe like normal, taps the tabs flush with the outside of the hoof, places plastic "blister" covers over the tab and fills the blisters with a special glue. With the hoof covered in plastic wrap for several minutes, the glue cures and hardens while the horse stands, and the shoe is secured—no nails needed.

"[Wondrwherecraigis] told us early in his career that he did not like nails, and we listened to him," Reed said. "If you look at his foot, you wouldn't think he needed glue-ons, but if you nail his feet, he tells you, 'I don't like it.'"

Reed said Wondrwherecraigis is a fairly cool customer otherwise, and that Russell will hold the bay gelding when shoeing is of particular importance.

"He stands very good and he's very patient," Reed said. "But he's a 16-year-old boy, relatively. If he's got something else on his mind, as muscular and as strong as he is, if he's done, he's done."

Reed's adjustments with glue-on shoes go further into knowledge accumulated from a career spanning more than 20 years. He explained that traditionally, glue-on shoes tended to lock a horse's heel in place. Reed said that, mainly through work with Russell's horses, he has found a greater range of motion to be beneficial in preventing injury.

"By releasing and allowing their heels to flex as natural as possible and not fighting Mother Nature," Reed said, "we have had more success with the Hanton shoes with quarter cracks."

The solution seems a long way from the traditional blacksmith work of his grandfather, something Reed thinks of often.

"Quit playing games, go back to old-school," Reed answered when asked what his grandfather would think of horseshoes without nails and other developments in the trade. "He was a hard-nosed man. Softest heart in the world, but hard-spoken. He would help anybody."

Reed explained that the shoeing process changes drastically in the winter months, when horses' feet grow substantially slower. Regional racetracks also change due to track maintenance and the freezing and thawing associated with winter weather.

Laurel missed several days of racing and training due to delays with the winterization process, with national consultants brought in—all following a complete resurfacing of the track last April.

All of it filters down to horses, and their feet.

"We had to adjust him and a couple others with what the Stronach Group and Maryland Jockey Club were doing to the surface," Reed said. "It went through many stages, and in my opinion mostly positive stages, but we had to adjust as well."

Throughout the summer, Reed typically changes shoes every 28-30 days. In the winter, changes are made anywhere from 30-60 days in between, more due to the wear of the aluminum shoes than the growth of the foot.

Seasonal conditions also impact the time between shoeing and race day.

"In July, [Wondrwherecraigis] would be the day of or two days out from a race," Reed said of the timing behind a new set. "This time of year, we typically try to go seven to 10 days out."

The longer buffer allows for more adjustments. Part of the reason Reed can give this attention to detail is the small operation he runs, now working with just a few trainers in the Mid-Atlantic. Owners are taking note.

"We've had some people send horses to Brittany mainly because of feet, because of the individual care," said Reed, who lives in Chesapeake City, Md.

Russell credits the ownership group behind Wondrwherecraigis (Michael Dubb, The Elkstone Group, Madaket Stables and Bethlehem Stables) for its patience. Purchased for $67,000 as a yearling, the Kentucky-bred won his debut at Laurel in March 2020. Three months later, he won again, and headed to stakes company. He finished second (by a head) in the Gold Fever at Belmont Park in July, only to be disqualified to third for bumping favorite Long Weekend. Fourth behind the speedy Yaupon in Saratoga's Amsterdam-G2, Wondrwherecraigis went to the sidelines.

"After the Amsterdam, he just wasn't quite the same," Russell said. "He just kind of showed us that he just needed backed off a bit, so luckily [the owners] were great to let me give him a break."

The patience paid off, as the sprinter has crossed the line first six of his next seven starts—including three stakes wins—while pushing his career earnings figure to $407,640.

"It just goes to show what being patient with a nice horse can do," Russell said. "I know deep down that if he didn't get that time off, he wouldn't have been the same."

For Reed, getting a call from Russell after a stakes win feels good, but it doesn't always come and he knows he's just a single ingredient to the recipe needed for a horse to succeed.

"To be one of the lower people on the totem pole in most barns, a call like that is very big," he said. "It's nice to have a horse like this at this time with a client like this." ◆

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Elkridge-Harford Hunt Point-to-Point

Where the world's greatest timber horses get their start!

Saturday, April 9, 2022

Atlanta Hall Farm, 2933 Pocock Road, Monkton
Gates open at 10:30 a.m.; Post time 11:30 a.m.

Featured Races:

Elkridge-Harford Junior Flat
Junior Pony Flat

Edward S. Voss Memorial
Open Timber

George C. Clement Memorial
Novice Timber

The Ann McIntosh
Heavyweight Timber

Leith Symington Griswold Memorial
Amateur Apprentice Timber

Junior Field Master's Chase
Small/Large/Horse

The Alfred J. Smithwick
Open Flat

Sara Bosley Secor Memorial
Amateur Rider Flat

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GOODOLDTIMES (IRE) (Armata Stables/Alicia S. Murphy)
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JUST WAIT AND SEE (IRE) (Kinross Farm/Richard L. Valentine)
LE CHEVALIER (Michael A. Smith/Julie Gomena)
MONBEG STREAM (IRE) (John Greene/Leslie F. Young)
MYSTIC STRIKE (Upland Partners/Todd McKenna)
POCKET TALK (IRE) (Kinross Farm/Joseph G. Davies)
PRESELI ROCK (IRE) (Bruton Street-US/Jack Fisher)
RAKHAA (GB) (Ballybristol Farm LLC/Leslie F. Young)
RENEGADE RIVER (Kiplin Hall/William Dowling)
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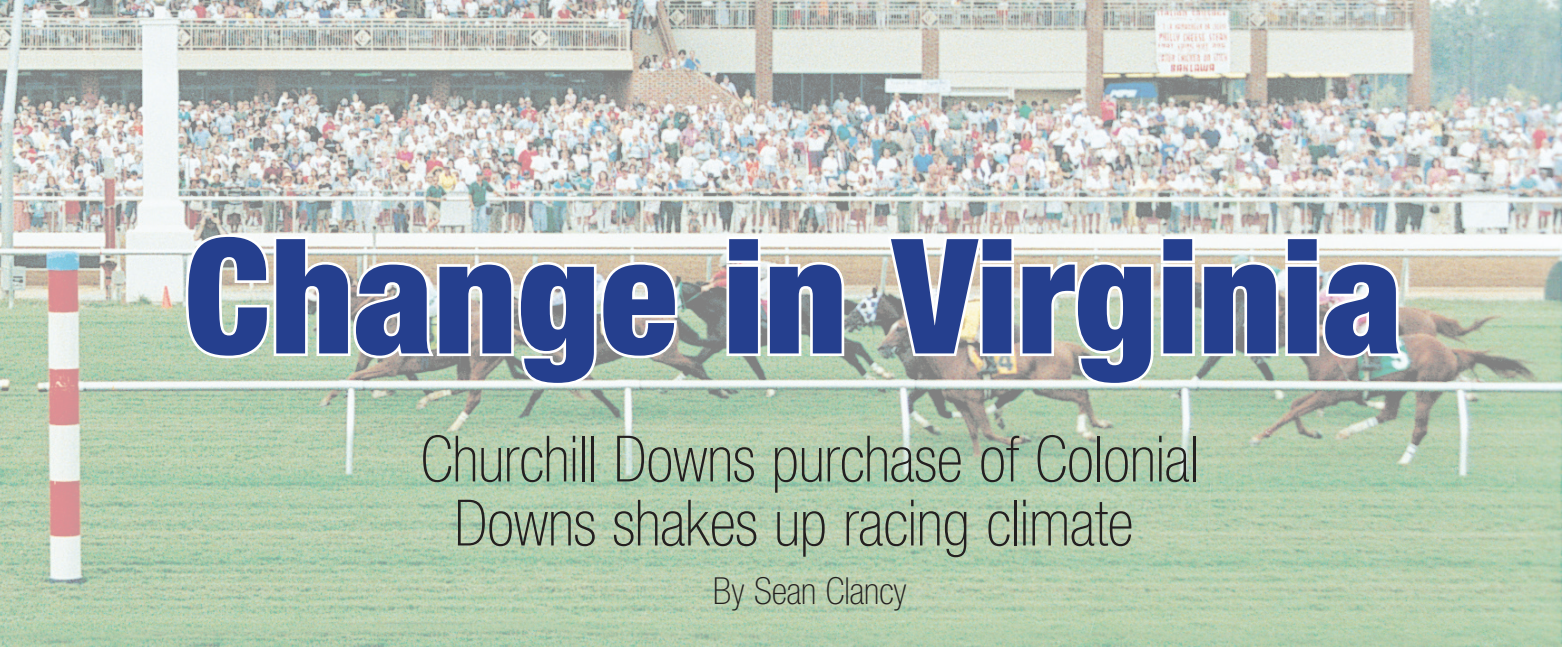

Change in Virginia

Churchill Downs purchase of Colonial Downs shakes up racing climate

By Sean Clancy

Bombshell. Churchill Downs rocked the Mid-Atlantic racing world with its purchase of Colonial Downs from Peninsula Pacific Entertainment. Announced Feb. 22, the $2.485 billion deal included Virginia's only pari-mutuel racetrack and the opportunity to increase the historical horse racing machines churning in Virginia.

Colonial Downs opened in 1997 and hosted Thoroughbred and Standardbred racing until shuttering in 2014. The New Kent County facility reopened in 2019 under new management, the Colonial Downs Group. The subsidiary of Peninsula Pacific will conduct its fourth season of live racing this summer with a 27-day meet (Monday-Wednesday), which begins July 11. Daily purses will average $600,000 and a 24-stakes package anchors the nine-week stint.

Change always brings doubt and uncertainty in any sphere. With the recent closure and sale of Arlington Park, along with similar results at Calder Racetrack in Florida and Hollywood Park in California, Churchill Downs brings its own type of doubt and uncertainty to an area steeped in equine tradition and commitment.

The deal, which includes properties in New York and Iowa, is expected to close by the end of 2022 subject to approvals from state commissions. In addition to the racetrack, the purchase includes six existing Rosie's Gaming emporiums in Virginia, the rights to The Rose (a $400 million gaming facility/hotel/restaurant/parks development) under construction in Dumfries and set to open in 2023, and other potential expansion projects centered around up to 5,000 total HHR machines in the state. In the Mid-Atlantic, Churchill also owns Pennsylvania's Presque Isle Downs racetrack and casino and the Ocean Downs Standardbred track and casino in Maryland.

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred caught up with some of the players in Virginia to talk about the change in ownership at Colonial Downs.

Debbie Easter. Executive Director of the Virginia Thoroughbred Association

What was your reaction?

"It was totally out of the blue, we heard about it when everybody else heard about it. We knew possibly somewhere down the road that it was going to happen with Peninsula Pacific, just because they had done it with Evangeline Downs."

Why is Virginia racing in a better position than other states?

"There are a couple of reasons. One is our race days are tied to the expansion of machines. Obviously, if you pay the money Churchill has paid for Colonial and a couple of other places, they're going to want to expand those machines quickly. As they do, then race days will increase. It's one day of racing for every 100 machines, at a minimum. That's a positive and you have to believe that will align our goals. We've got roughly 2,500 machines that will be added. Another reason is the property itself doesn't have the value of Hollywood Park, Calder or Arlington Park. And you have to remember they were one of the original ones to put in an application in Virginia so there's always been some interest here. Certainly, if they want to, they have a lot of experience putting on super race meets. Hopefully, they'll use it. And, look, Churchill doesn't run in the summer and they don't own Ellis Park, why wouldn't they encourage their horsemen to come over here and run at a meet they own? Right now, we don't overlap many days at Kentucky Downs but that could be interesting. Certainly, they have a lot of experience in stakes races and coordinating those. Hopefully it will all work out."

How long does that machine/ race day agreement last?

"It's in the law."

The sale won't affect the 2022 meet?

"It's set and it's not changing. The machines are doing better than we ever projected. Jill Byrne and her staff, John Marshall and his staff are doing a great job. They are working hard to make the meet better than it has been the last two meets. We're really looking forward to a more positive 2022 Colonial meet, purses will be up, more days. The current administration is working hard to improve the backside and the frontside."

How do you improve the Colonial Downs meet?

"We would like to see fans there, more fans there. People forget we didn't even know we would have fans last year until

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- **Track record setter at Del Mar going a mile in 1:36.23**
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- **Sire of multiple stakes winners GREATBULLSOFFIRE ($232,350), UNRIDEABULL ($206,459), MAYTHEHORSEBWITHU ($187,495), MISS BULLISTIC ($183,270), Bullheaded Boy ($414,663), etc.**

$1,500 LFSN
Registered WV stallion
Nominated to WV Breeders Classics
Breeders' Cup nominated

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- **Multiple stakes-winning sprinter of $603,360, G1-placed three times**
- **Ran multiple 108 Beyer numbers**
- **Won or placed in 13 out of 15 starts**
- **$63,608 average earnings/starter lifetime**
- **Sire of G3 HOLLYWOOD TALENT ($467,071), ROLIN WITH OLIN ($339,053), SPECIAL TALENT, Tara's Talent ($293,044), Final Shot ($290,527), American Talent ($268,898), Tara's Talent ($293,044), I'm the Talent ($274,243)**

$1,500 LFSN
Registered WV stallion
Nominated to WV Breeders Classics
Breeders' Cup nominated

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right before the meet. We have to let Colonial have the opportunity to get fans there. All of us would like to see a weekend day in there but it all depends on what is happening around us."

How important has the return of Colonial Downs been to Virginia?

"Between Colonial, our certified program and our owners' bonus programs, it's been huge. Because we don't run year-round, those have turned us into more of a year-round state. The enthusiasm for racing, the things that have been happening on the farms, saving what infrastructure we had here, it's just bringing a lot of horses to Virginia. One of the unintended consequences of our certified program is we've got about 2,500 horses a year that have another reason to come to Colonial. We're hoping to build out that restricted program better this year and the years ahead."

What's your message to the people who are worried about new ownership?

"Understandably, everybody gets worried because it's change but it doesn't necessarily have to be bad change. They put on very good race meets where they run them and that might be beneficial to Virginia."

Jeb Hannum
Executive Director of the Virginia Equine Alliance

What was your reaction?

"I was completely surprised. We had heard some rumors that something might be happening, but we've been hearing that since day one. My first reaction was I was disappointed, not so much in the sale, but in the fact that we wouldn't be working with the present management team because they've been great partners. We've had a really good working relationship with them and we'll miss that."

What is the message to people who are worried about Churchill Downs?

"Churchill Downs has a lot of racing expertise and I hope we can benefit from their management team. We have a boutique meet, we have flexibility of when racing takes place. We're not tied to the summer. Looking at what Churchill is doing at other places, hopefully we can find a slot that is good for us with the other Mid-Atlantic tracks and enables us to grow. If we were a longer meet or we were year-round racing, that could be problematic. That provides flexibility for Churchill to put us in a place that is beneficial for Virginia. I hope that's the case. If we were to stay in the summer, perhaps Churchill would be shut down for a part of it which would help us draw horses from Kentucky. I hope there's a good niche place for us to fit in the racing calendar."

How important is the present HHR agreement to Virginia?

"That was critical when we got the legislation passed, that we had a direct tie-in with the machines operating and race days, we talk a lot internally about the ratio. That's in the law, that's not a contractual obligation and that's very important. As the number of machines increases, the number of race days increases as well. We are getting close to 3,000 machines and that will get us up to 30 days. Once it goes over 3,000 machines, we'll have to look carefully at how the schedule works so we have enough horses and enough purse money. That ratio is a really important factor going forward."

What is the VEA's focus?

"Immediately, there will be no changes. Getting back to the ratio, it may be that Churchill Downs needs to conduct some harness racing to help satisfy the ratio. When they get up to 5,000 machines and the feeling is that 50 days of racing is too much, we would have to look over to the harness side to see if they can fill that gap. That will be an important thing to consider over the next couple of years. Once we sit down with Churchill, it will be high on the list of issues."

How impactful has the revitalization of Colonial been to the state?

"It's been an extraordinary journey. Debbie Easter, Frank Petramalo and I have been involved from day one. In the fall of 2014, there was no racing, there were no OTBs, the breeding was taking place but the whole industry was on its knees. It's extraordinary that we've gotten to the point where we are now. It speaks to the heritage of racing in Virginia. Some states have that. Kentucky obviously has that, New York to some extent, Maryland has a strong heritage and if you have that, it resonates in the legislature. Even though the legislators may not know a whole lot about racing, they still feel a connection and want to do things to help you. We have always had really good legislature support."

And that doesn't change with Churchill owning Colonial…

"It doesn't. That's important going forward. When we sit down with Churchill, we'll explain to them that it was the horsemen who got the HHR machines approved. There were a lot of legislators who were reluctant to see gambling grow in Virginia, but they did it with the understanding that it was going to revitalize horse racing. When the casinos came on board, we knew we were going to take a big hit, but there were some revisions put in the casino legislation to help protect the horse racing industry. Again, that was done because the legislature wanted to help racing."

How important is the residency program to Virginia?

"It was during the time when there wasn't a whole lot going on and we were looking to do anything to keep the energy going, to keep horses coming into Virginia. We convened a big group of people in Middleburg, we were kicking around ideas and writing stuff on the board and it was actually the harness guys that threw it out. It went from there. [Owner/breeder] Larry Johnson working with Debbie and the VTA crunched the numbers and it's been a phenomenal success. The nice thing about the residency program is that it gets money out to a lot of different people. There have been some young, start-up trainers who have gotten going because of the program."

What's your message to Churchill Downs?

"Peninsula Pacific wanted to make their mark in Virginia and they did everything they could do to make Colonial successful. They knew that it was important for their investment, that racing had to be successful. For Churchill, I hope they recognize the value of a robust racing program and that will help the rest of their business in the state, that's what it comes down to. We are good people to work with, there is a great heritage here and we can all make it successful."

Frank Petramalo Jr.
Executive Director of the Virginia HBPA

What was your reaction?

"Personally, I'm disappointed that the current folks are leaving. We started in June 2018 and it's been nothing but a friendly, professional and productive relationship. We couldn't have asked for better people to work with. My hope is that once the deal closes in October that the current people stay on. John Marshall is a good guy to work with and Jill Byrne is outstanding, she knows the industry, she knows horse racing and she's not afraid to work. And the people she's brought in are top drawer. I hope that same crew stays on."

How important are the HHR machines to the success of racing in Virginia?

"The HHR machines are generating much more than we planned on. Going back to June of 2018 when we sat down

FIVE MEDALS ON TDN VALUE SIRE LIST

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ACCELERATE

Lookin At Lucky - Issues, by Awesome Again

GOLD MEDAL VALUE SIRE AT $15,000

"This was a model racehorse whose soundness and attitude underpinned a $6.7 million career."
–CHRIS MCGRATH

HONOR A. P.

HONOR A. P.

Honor Code - Hollywood Story, by Wild Rush

SILVER MEDAL VALUE SIRE AT $15,000

"Remember that a horse this beautiful, in the meantime, almost guarantees a home run or two at the sales."
–CHRIS MCGRATH

TONALIST

TONALIST

Tapit - Settling Mist, by Pleasant Colony

SILVER MEDAL VALUE SIRE AT $10,000

Recent G1P Country Grammer, Saudi Cup (G1)
"11 graded stakes performers through three crops represents 4.33% of named foals."
–CHRIS MCGRATH

UNIFIED

UNIFIED

Candy Ride (ARG) - Union City, by Dixie Union

SILVER MEDAL VALUE SIRE AT $10,000

"If his second (crop) can run anything like they must look, this fee will be one of many things left in the rear-view mirror."
–CHRIS MCGRATH

UNION RAGS

Dixie Union - Tempo, by Gone West

BRONZE MEDAL VALUE SIRE AT $30,000

Recent G1W Express Train, Santa Anita H. (G1)
"He has so far assembled as many as 12 G1 performers among 29 placed at graded stakes level overall."
–CHRIS MCGRATH

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LANE'S END

with Colonial Downs, they asked for our help to secure legislation, we tossed numbers back and forth and we said what we would like to do is come up with 30 days of racing at $600-700,000 a day, that would fit in well in the Mid-Atlantic. That was our initial plan and it looks as though we will have more money and can race more days, I'm not saying we want to, but it's turned out very well. That's based on 2,700 machines. As law, Colonial is entitled to 5,000 machines [in the state]. On the drawing board is expanding the little operation they have in Dumfries, it has 150 machines, to a decent-sized casino in Northern Virginia."

How is Colonial Downs different than Arlington Park or Hollywood Park?

"We have a number of statutory protections. The most important of which relates to the HHR machines. By regulation and statute, Colonial has to have one live race day for every 100 machines. They have 2,700 machines and we'll be running 27 days this year. That's a minimum. That's our major protection. With regards to [account-wagering platform] Twinspires, I don't know what they're going to do there. By statute, the source-market fee we have is 11.5 percent. For every dollar wagered in Virginia through Twinspires, regardless of where it is, we get 11.5 percent. When I say we, I mean the VEA gets 4 percent, the HBPA and the [Virginia] Harness Horse Association get 5 percent, based on handle, we get 5 percent of Thoroughbred handle and the harness gets 5 percent of Standardbred handle, the way it turns out it's 90 percent Thoroughbred. The Racing Commission gets 1½ percent and the breeders' fund gets 1 percent. I don't know what position Twinspires will take in the future. We have other statutory provisions. They can't run off-track betting, if they don't have a contract with us and they don't run the number of days the racing commission tells them to. We have a lot more written statutory protection than just about any other state."

But those statutes can be changed…

"Oh sure, but we the horsemen have much, much more influence on the legislature than either the current Colonial does and certainly more than the past Colonial did. If CDI comes in as a carpetbagger, albeit, with a reputation, they're going to have a tough time getting anything done that's contrary to the interests of the horse industry. In 2019, the legislation was passed on the basis that these HHR machines were absolutely necessary to save the horse industry in Virginia. Every legislator believed that. They wanted to make sure what they were doing was preserving the horse industry and generating the rebirth of breeding and horse farms in Virginia. That is always on our side."

What is the best-case scenario?

"We'll know pretty soon what the approach of the new folks is going to be. Our horsemen contract with the current Colonial expires at the end of this year. We'll be negotiating a new contract with the new people. Our contract has been basically in the same format for the last 15 or so years and it's worked quite well. There are a number of challenges out there that we've got to protect ourselves against in the contract. For example, racetrack maintenance is always a problem. When you have a gaming company coming in, the thing they are least interested in is horse racing and they're certainly not interested in spending any money to keep the place up, to say nothing of improving it. That's been a tremendous problem at Fair Grounds. It's a matter of keeping the focus on horse racing."

What's the incentive to Churchill?

"The machines. The gaming revenue. They make no bones about it, they're a gambling company. They have a nice show, one or two huge days in Kentucky and that gives them a lot of cache. The attraction here, I would think, is being in the Mid-Atlantic and to expand to 5,000 machines. It's an interesting history, when pari-mutuel wagering was made lawful in Virginia, one of the bidders was Churchill. Who knows? If they want, they could have some very good racing in the Mid-Atlantic. The physical plant at Colonial Downs is wonderful, if you spend a little money and keep it up, you could have some very good racing here. It could fit in nicely in their current racing, a lot of folks last summer came from Kentucky. To me, as far as a company like CDI is concerned, it's just a matter of trying to lose as little money as possible running racing. Nobody makes money running racing unless you're doing something like the Kentucky Derby or you're a destination like Saratoga or Del Mar. Without alternative gaming, you're not going to make a go of it."

What's your message to the Virginia horsemen?

"Two things. Be optimistic but at the same time be realistic. Churchill comes with a good bit of baggage. What happened at Arlington Park was even shocking for me. After holding hands with the horsemen and going to the legislature year after year in Illinois to get casino gambling, once they get it, bingo, the horsemen get stabbed in the back. That's amazing."

John Marshall
Executive Vice President of Operations Colonial Downs

What's been your experience at Colonial Downs?

"It's been very fulfilling being a part of resurrecting Colonial Downs from the ashes, running 15 days in 2019 to get things started and to look at where we are in 2022, it's amazing. Twenty-seven days at 600 [thousand] a day on average is a great place but that's still a starting point. In 2019, we stepped off to create a boutique, elite meet in Virginia and we're well on our way. We aren't on the level of Saratoga or Del Mar, it takes decades to get there, but if you had to manufacture a boutique, elite meet, I think you would follow the template we're following in Virginia. By condensing schedule, bringing unusually high purses, access to top talent. Our style is an authentic boutique meet that earns its spot on the circuit between northern racing and Florida racing."

Describe the structure, the environment at Colonial.

"We have cohabitated well with our friends in Maryland, that's been successful. We've held consistent with not being reliant on Maryland resources. We have our own team to staff the race office, the track positions and jocks' room positions. People thoroughly enjoy coming to Colonial Downs to race and to work. They look forward to it. That's been earned. When we had the early closure in 2020 because of the pandemic, we treated people very well, we gave benevolent purse dollars to help folks get to where they were going to next, we paid staff through the duration of the meet. It comes down to how you treat people. Folks remember that. Racing is a tight industry and word gets around; we feel like we have earned the white hat. People respect Colonial and they take ownership in that. People feel like it's their track."

How different is Colonial from other tracks?

"Our safety record is great. We feel like we are well ahead of the HISA [Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority] expectations that are coming down the pipeline. The Virginia Racing Commission has been with us lock step the entire way. I've worked in many jurisdictions; Virginia is the first experience I've had where people are working together to improve the situa-

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tion. I didn't do it. Peninsula Pacific didn't do it. It was the combination of all the parties with the same goal. It's the first time I've ever seen it and I'm so pleased to have experienced it."

Why has it worked so well?

"All the stakeholders started out in the same situation. Look, there was no racing, they were on the brink of having no horsemen's organization, no racing commission, nothing to regulate. Out of desperation, everyone had to bond together and build it to what it's been so far. Nobody had any implied ownership, we were all new and every stakeholder played a big part. Compare and contrast, Virginia to Kentucky. Kentucky has been racing for 150 years if not more, they've had a legacy commission and a legacy industry. Here in Virginia, we had to start over from ground zero. There were zero race days. There were zero HHR units. Now we have 2,700 HHR units and growing, 27 race days and growing, and a reputable racetrack. Everybody is doing their part for the right reasons. The horsemen. The Racing Commission. Management."

What's it like to work with Virginia horsemen?

"I can't believe how delightful it is. I have seen the worst of horsemen relations and the best of horsemen relations and I've never experienced anything in between. The worst was in Florida from the time I was there. The best is Frank Petramalo and the Virginia horsemen with a common goal to build this business to what it has become."

What's your vision of Colonial?

"The vision is a bit longer, where you create a scenario where top stables want to come and stable, you get into the zone of seven, eight, nine weeks. Ten or 12 weeks really is the sweet spot, three days a week. The time of year has always been a great debate, I would like to see the meet slide later into the fall, catch a little bit of September, a little bit of October. I believe that's a good spot to capture the migration to south Florida, even though you have the Keeneland factor in play. There is a lot of competition in summer racing. This is probably the last season of Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday matinees, I believe the quality of racing has continuously improved and turned enough heads to graduate to the late-week spot. In time, we'll be more competitive with the big tracks."

What could go wrong in that vision?

"You still have competition. You still have to compete. As Colonial gets stronger, I could see other folks maneuvering to try to maintain their market share of two key things, horse supply and handle. You could see some reaction to Colonial's success for others to hang on to what they've got. I don't see this organic growth of pari-mutuel handle, there's no swell of foal crops, everybody is still competing for those two precious resources. If Colonial gets too far ahead of the legacy stalwart tracks, I could see them adjusting to hang on to what they've got. The two main benefits for Colonial are purse dollars, which are only going up, and track safety that all owners, trainers and horses relish."

What's your message to the horsemen?

"I don't know how your readers wouldn't be fans of Colonial Downs. Who doesn't love an underdog, right? The Cinderella story, everybody roots for it and here it is in real life. Kentucky Downs had a run, they had a shot at it, but they flushed it the moment they reduced their days and gave away the purse money to everyone else. They had an opportunity to be where Colonial is and decided not to. We are going all the way. Everyone is welcomed to run, everyone is welcomed to attend, it's a place where the local Virginia horsemen have a chance and the big stables ship in and stable here and fit right in. It's one of the rare situations where everyone can go back and enjoy the golden era of how racing was meant to be." ◆

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Going the Distance

Maryland-bred Cordmaker cuts back to 7 furlongs, captures General George

BY JOE CLANCY

Surely, Cordmaker's people told him the General George Stakes-G3 was a 7-furlong race. Right? But did he understand? Did he get the gist? Did he know the $250,000 stakes was his shortest start in 18 months?

Because he sure acted like it.

On his toes leaving the paddock, the 7-year-old leaned on the lead pony, tossed his head, gave pony girl Connie Warner a workout and made jockey Victor Carrasco smile.

"I could tell he was very sharp because usually with the pony he's very quiet, he doesn't pull much or anything like that," Carrasco said after Cordmaker won Laurel Park's winter feature Feb. 19. "Even the pony girl was like, 'Victor, he's pretty aggressive today.' We were going seven-eighths today and it worked out perfect."

Trained by Rodney Jenkins for Hillwood Stable, Cordmaker let others hustle to the lead at the start and was sixth early as War Tocsin, Sir Alfred James and Threes Over Deuces battled up front. Carrasco let Cordmaker ease up to fourth, but was soon flanked by four horses to his right and blocked by two others in front of him. Second after a half-mile in :45.33, Cordmaker had no choice but to stay inside and wait. Coming off 15 consecutive starts at a mile or longer, he challenged War Tocsin just before the quarter pole.

The inside move wasn't exactly the idea.

"My plan was to get him around horses because I think he is a lot better when he is outside, but at the five-sixteenths I had horses on the outside and the hole opened up a little bit and I said, 'It's either now or never,' and he helped me out big time and he went through," said Carrasco, aboard Cordmaker for the 25th time.

Cordmaker pulled a length clear in the stretch, drifted out slightly as War Tocsin fought on and went to the inside without reducing the deficit. The son of Curlin won by three-quarters of a length

JEFFREY SNYDER

Victor Carrasco keeps an eye on the competition as Cordmaker goes on to get his first graded stakes win in the General George.

in 1:23.58. War Tocsin (48-1) held second with Sir Alfred James third. The stewards posted the inquiry sign over the stretch run, but made no change.

The $150,000 payday lifted Cordmaker's career earnings to $989,640 and gave Jenkins his third graded stakes win–after Running Tide's Leonard Richards Stakes-G3 in 2002 and Bandbox's 2014 General George triumph (also for Hillwood). Likewise, it was the third graded stakes score for Carrasco–joining last year's General George with Share the Ride and the 2021 Baltimore/Washington International Turf Cup Stakes-G3 with Field Pass.

Owner Ellen Charles thought of Bandbox, and a long association with racing as Cordmaker charged toward the finish. Bandbox won his first three starts as a 2-year-old, added the General George at 6 and was off to a solid start at Northview Stallion Station before he died in February 2021.

A gelding, Cordmaker simply keeps building on his racing career.

The $150,000 yearling purchase won his second start at 2, added stakes tallies at 3 and 4, endured a winless 5-year-old campaign, rebounded with four stakes scores last year and opened 2022 with back-to-back stakes tallies. Charles has enjoyed every twist and turn.

"He is a cool horse, just a cool horse. He's won it all now, hasn't he? And now he's a graded stakes winner too," she said. "You know who won this race? My Bandbox, so it's nice to have Cordmaker win it too. Maybe Bandbox was giving him a push there in the stretch."

Bred by Bob Manfuso and Katy Voss, Cordmaker was one of 11 yearlings to sell for six figures at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's fall yearling sale in 2016. He's the only graded stakes winner, and the only one still running.

Produced by the Polish Numbers mare Tanca, Cordmaker found success early and kept right on going. He won twice as a 3-year-old, including against older runners in the Jennings Stakes for Maryland-breds at the end of the season. At 4, he flopped in the General George but rebounded to win five times and come within a half-length of capturing the Pimlico Special Stakes-G3. The chestnut lost all eight starts in 2020, including another third in the Special, and two more to begin 2021 but has more than righted the ship since with victories in the Harrison Johnson, Victory Gallop, Dickie Small, Bob Manfuso and Jennings stakes. The success has taken him to the verge of $1 million in earnings and won him plenty of admirers in the barn and beyond.

JIM McCUE

Glass Ceiling prevails in the Barbara Fritchie for New York trainer Charlton Baker.

"You see how big he is," said Jenkins assistant Eveline Kjelstrup. "When he was 6, he finally started putting weight on instead of getting taller every time you looked at him. He finally stopped growing up, he started putting weight on, and muscle. It's a lot of fun, it's a lot of fun."

Carrasco rode Cordmaker in his debut–Aug. 19, 2017–and has since won 11 races aboard the Maryland-bred.

"There's always one that is very special, this one is like that," he said. "I'm out of words. To finally get a graded stakes win with this horse means a lot. We tried it in the Pimlico Special, two times, and he ran well but couldn't win. He really is a cool horse. I'm going to buy a big picture of him and put it in my living room."

NEW YORKERS TAKE FRITCHIE

Somewhat anonymous in the winner's circle after his mare Glass Ceiling won the Barbara Fritchie Stakes-G3 one race before the General George, trainer Charlton Baker smiled when asked if he'd ever been to the Maryland track.

"I had my first graded stakes placing here in the same race, way back," said the New York-based Baker, also Glass Ceiling's co-owner with Michael Foster. "I don't ship here a lot. It's my first time I actually came here."

He picked a good day to make the trip. Claimed for $40,000 in May, Glass Ceiling won her second stakes and third consecutive race–edging away from a stubborn Jakarta in the stretch by a half-length with Fille d'Esprit another half-length back in third after 7 furlongs in 1:23.82.

Jockey Dylan Davis credited his mount's gameness, and a late change in tactics, with the victory.

"I saw Jakarta going easy in front and no one was on the outside so I thought I could just go and attack her, but she was game inside there," he said after his first Laurel win. "That's why I went down to her, then she engaged me, and I went back to the left hand to get away from her. I had to change it up and change it up quick. I saw the outcome and it was me finishing second, so I had to think of something else and I had to think of something quick. And it worked."

Third in the 2015 Fritchie with Expression, Baker claimed Glass Ceiling from Mertkan Kantarmaci at Belmont Park based on her potential but wasn't necessarily thinking stakes races until she started to improve. Second to future Grade 1 winner Bella Sofia the first time Baker ran her, Glass Ceiling won a Belmont allowance in late September, was beaten a head in the Pumpkin Pie Stakes in late October, won the Garland of Roses at Aqueduct in December and opened 2022 with a powerful allowance score going 7 furlongs at Aqueduct in January.

"I was thinking the a-other-than because she was knocking on the door in there," he said of his early goals. "I figured she would eventually win that . . . but once she started running good numbers I said 'OK, now we've got to try to win a graded stakes with her.' Laurel was an obvious spot. Once she got good, this was a spot I wanted to try."

Beyond ability, Baker credited a better mental state with helping Glass Ceiling become a graded stakes winner.

JIM MCCUE (2)

The John Salzman Jr.-trained Local Motive (top) and Galerio (inside) won stakes for the Maryland team of Bird Mobberley and Grady Griffin.

"She matured, and we got her to calm down," he said. "They've got a small track at Belmont where I can train her, and she just started relaxing and settling down and came into herself when she started doing that. That was the main thing, getting her to relax a little bit more and she just started enjoying training more and is a happier horse. A happier horse always runs good."

Bred in Kentucky by Twin Creeks Farm, the daughter of Constitution won for the seventh time in 25 starts and pushed her career earnings to $531,012.

HOME TEAM HOLDS SERVE

Led by Cordmaker, five stakes on the card went to horses bred and trained in Maryland. Nobody had a better day than trainer John Salzman Jr. and owners Bird Mobberley and Grady Griffin as Local Motive steamed to a win in the Miracle Wood for 3-year-olds and Galerio hung on to a nose triumph in the John B. Campbell for older horses.

"It's so exciting," said Mobberley afterward. "You hope you can win, but you just have to be thankful for everything you can get. We're just so glad to be part of Maryland racing."

Mobberley's parents Jack (who died in 1995) and Gretchen (2016) were steadfast parts of Maryland racing for decades as owners, trainers, breeders and leaders. They'd be proud of their daughter, whose stable won a dozen races last year, pulled in $440,708 in purses and pulled a stakes double on the biggest day of the winter meet.

Local Motive got it started, digging in late to repel Majestic Frontier and win the $100,000 stakes by 2 lengths for jockey J.D. Acosta after a mile in 1:39.14. Bred by Wasabi Ventures, Greenspring Mares and Bowman and Higgins Stable, the son of Divining Rod won three times as a 2-year-old, all the while learning how to be a racehorse–a feat he's still wrestling with at times.

"He's been a nice horse all along, he's just had some issues," said Salzman, rattling off various instances of greenness and trainer-stressing behavior. "He's still green, like with the dirt in his face. Everything's got to be just right for him. J.D.'s gotten to know him and that helps a lot."

Aboard for all nine starts, including four wins, two thirds and a pull-up at Timonium when Local Motive reacted to the kickback, Acosta has seen plenty with the bay gelding.

"At Colonial, he didn't know what to do," said the jockey of a stakes win last summer. "The more races he gets in, he's getting better. I told John to put blinkers on him because he's really green, but John said he put blinkers on in the morning and he got worse."

Salzman laughed at that one.

"He doesn't pay any attention, he's worse, and the way he runs you can't do that to him [in a race]," the trainer said. "We're working through it. I've worked him behind horses and dirt hits him and he won't go up in between them. We're trying, it's just taking a little longer than usual."

Two races later, Salzman, Mobberley, Griffin and Acosta were back in the winner's circle with Galerio, who fought off Forewarned by a nose in the $100,000 Campbell. The 6-year-old became a stakes winner–after placing in six–in his 33rd start. Galerio made his first seven starts for breeder Dan Marconi in 2019, before getting claimed. The son of Jump Start and the Congaree mare Congaree Princess has bounced through the barns of Claudio Gonzalez, Dale Bennett, Jamie Ness and Salzman since–piling up 10 wins and pushing his career earnings to $514,250. Salzman dropped a $50,000 slip on the bay gelding in November.

"He's just a hard-knocking horse," Salzman said. "I'll run him for a tag, but these races have been coming up with three or four horses and I say, 'Well, let's take a look at it' and it's worked out great. There isn't much difference between horses at his level. They told me Cordmaker [a winner over Galerio in the Jennings in January] wasn't in there I said, 'Well, I'm going. Let's go.'"

While Salzman is a fan of Galerio, the reverse might not be true.

"He hates me, he attacks me," Salzman said. "He'll come over the webbing at me

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and I don't do anything to him. I'm scared of him. He's got me so I don't want to mess with him. Today the groom said he was going to run home and change and Galerio starts bucking and kicking and things. I had to get the kid up the shed to come down and get hold of him. I've worked with horses all my life, but I'm not fooling with him."

Kiss the Girl, bred in Maryland by Classic Thoroughbred XII and sold by Delaware's CandyLand Farm, was destined for big things from the beginning as the daughter of Into Mischief and the Hard Spun mare Spin the Bottle topped the 2018 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic yearling sale at $210,000. Buyer Three Diamonds Farm sent her to Hall of Fame trainers Todd Pletcher (two starts, a maiden win and a Saratoga Grade 3 placing) and Steve Asmussen (five starts, one win and a fourth behind future champion Gamine) before sending her home midway through 2020.

With Maryland-based Mike Trombetta, she found her groove—winning stakes on the dirt in March and turf in August last year and opening 2022 with three strong starts. The 5-year-old began with a third in the Ladies Stakes at Aqueduct Jan. 16 and added an easy triumph over Maryland-breds in the Geisha 13 days later to get to the $100,000 Nellie Morse as the 3-1 second choice in a field of five. Carrasco let Kiss the Girl settle in fourth early, then sent her between horses in mid-stretch as she scored by 1¼ lengths over Artful Splatter with Miss Leslie third after 1:45.60.

Afterward, Trombetta called Kiss the Girl a "favorite," as much for her willingness and versatility as for her success.

"She's just cool," he said. "They sent her to me, and she was a little off form. They tried her on the grass, and it just took a while to get her on track and to do all the things she was supposed to do. We won the Conniver with her, we tried her on the turf and she showed up and ran good there a couple times. Turf season comes and goes and she goes back to the dirt and she keeps running good. You see her form, we all wished we owned one like her."

In 16 starts with Trombetta, Kiss the Girl has finished worse than fourth twice—sprinting at Pimlico last May and going long on the turf at Laurel in October—with six wins coming at 7 furlongs (twice), a mile, 1 1/16 miles (turf and dirt) and 1⅛ miles. And she's won five of nine, with a second and two thirds, on the dirt at Laurel.

"It's what horses used to do all the time," Trombetta said. "Now it's hard to find those kind. She's a good girl, good to train—you don't have to lean on her real hard. Just go through a routine and bring her over here."

Luna Belle started the stakes six-pack, rallying from last of eight early and still fourth (4 lengths down) in the stretch, with a 3-length blast in the Wide Country. Sent off at 2-5, the 3-year-old daughter of Great Notion and the Mojave Moon mare Heavenly Moon won her third consecutive stakes and fourth of nine starts for owners/breeders Debbie Greene and Ham Smith.

Also trained by Smith, Luna Belle covered 7 furlongs in 1:24.71 and earned another step up the ladder as a potential local hope for the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes-G2 in May.

"I like them going two turns. I don't think she'll have a problem with it," Smith said. "The way she runs her races she looks like she can run all day, actually. She's kind of pushbutton. You can rate her back and when you ask her to go, she goes." ◆

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STAKES WINNERS

JIM MCCUE

Back-to-back stakes wins at Laurel Park for Kiss the Girl, who added the Nellie Morse in February after taking the Geisha in January.

Maryland-bred

CORDMAKER, ch.g., 2015, Curlin—Tanca, by Polish Numbers. Bred by Robert T. Manfuso & Katharine M. Voss; owned by Hillwood Stable LLC; trained by Rodney Jenkins. $75,000 **Jennings S**, 1 mi., registered MD-bred or sired 4&up, Laurel, Jan. 29; $250,000 **General George S-G3**, 7 fur., 4 & up, Laurel, Feb. 19.

GALERIO, b.g., 2016, Jump Start—Congaree Princess, by Congaree. Bred by Daniel Marconi; owned by Bird Mobberley LLC & Grady Griffin; trained by John E. Salzman Jr. $100,000 **John B. Campbell S**, 1 1/16 mi., 4&up, Laurel, Feb. 19; 3rd **Jennings S**.

KISS THE GIRL, b.m., 2017, Into Mischief—Spin the Bottle, by Hard Spun. Bred by Classic Thoroughbred XII; owned by Three Diamonds Farm; trained by Michael J. Trombetta. $75,000 **Geisha S**, 1 mi., registered MD-bred or sired F&M, 4&up, Laurel, Jan. 29; $100,000 **Nellie Morse S**, 1 1/16 mi., F&M, 4&up, Laurel, Feb. 19; 3rd **Ladies S**.

LOCAL MOTIVE, b.g., 2019, Divining Rod—Wild for Love, by Not For Love. Bred by Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC, Greenspring Mares LLC & Bowman & Higgins Stable; owned by Bird Mobberley LLC; trained by John E. Salzman Jr. $100,000 **Miracle Wood S**, 1 mi., 3YO, Laurel, Feb. 19; 3rd **Spectacular Bid S**.

LUNA BELLE, b.f., 2019, Great Notion—Heavenly Moon, by Mojave Moon. Bred by Fred A. Greene Jr., Deborah Greene & Hamilton Smith; owned by Deborah S. Greene & Hamilton A. Smith; trained by Hamilton A. Smith. $100,000 **Xtra Heat S**, 6 fur., 3YO fillies, Laurel, Jan. 29; $100,000 **Wide Country S**, 7 fur., 3YO fillies, Laurel, Feb. 19.

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Foaling Season

Foaling season on a Thoroughbred farm is long and hard. It begins in the first few days of the New Year and lasts, seemingly forever, into the waning days of May. Five months, 150 sleepless and stressful nights when the outcome is measured in bushy-tailed nursing machines and mothers chomping alfalfa and producing milk to power those voraciously sucking bundles of need at their sides.

I love broodmares. I have always loved broodmares. I bred my first mare in the spring of 1967. She was a Thoroughbred mare I showed in the hunter divisions before I went away to college. I rode her in my last two years of high school and the summer before my first year of college. Somehow, I convinced my parents that I would spend more time at college if the mare were pregnant and I couldn't show her. We sent her to Virginia to a Thoroughbred stallion called The Big Boss. I can't claim to have foaled her as I was away at college on the night she gave birth. The resulting chestnut filly was small and unprepossessing. We showed her "on the line" as a yearling and 2-year-old and later sold her as a small junior hunter. All in all, it was not a great success. But I was hooked.

To this day, in the fall of the year, the sight of pregnant mares grazing in a lush green field fills me with contentment. They look completely happy, and that, of course, makes for a happy horseman. Underneath that veil of contentment runs a river of dread at the things that can go horribly wrong during foaling season. Mares, although vaccinated to the hilt, will abort their foals. We used to say that they "slipped" which was a much more gentile way of putting it, but the American Association of Equine Practitioners now insists that we call a spade a spade. Abortions can happen any time during a pregnancy and often go unnoticed in the early months.

We always palpated mares on Dec. 1 to verify their pregnancy status. That date was selected because that is when the "open" mares start to be put under lights to hasten their estrous cycle for the following spring. If a particularly fat mare aborts after Dec. 1 and it goes unnoticed (possible if the mares are living out in a large pasture), you can spend a lot of sleepless nights in the foaling barn waiting for an event that is never going to happen. This can be costly in days wasted watching and in weeks or months wasted in getting the mare bred back for the following year.

Assuming the mare holds her pregnancy to term, has had her pre-foaling vaccines and is up in the barn at night, the wait begins. Over many years of foaling Thoroughbred mares, we determined the average gestation is 345 days post ovulation. However, like many averages, that number is meaningless. In our 50 years of foaling, we had mares foal at 320 days and 370 days and produce babies who lived to tell the tale. Some, but not all, of the short-term foals lived without support but many required extensive neonatal care to survive. Being present at the foaling is the most important thing a breeder can do to ensure healthy deliveries.

Foal watching is a mind numbingly boring job on a horse farm. Over years, some mares will develop patterns. They will wax on the same day, or they will drip milk the day they are going to foal. We had mares who always foaled in the paddock during the day (our favorite kind) and we had others who would deliver standing up so we had to catch the foals before they hit the floor. We had mares who walked the stall for hours before lying down to foal and others who gave absolutely no sign until they got down and popped out a baby. We even had a mare who was eating her breakfast when we noticed two legs and a nose under her tail. My point is that, despite the foaling manuals, there is no "normal" foaling.

To intervene or not is a question often discussed among foaling attendants. I tended to believe in the non-intervention school of thought but it's damn hard to be intellectually consistent when a foal is halfway out and its purple tongue is hanging out of its mouth. There is a point in every foaling where you are sure the foal is dead. Ninety-nine times out of 100 it's not, but it's almost impossible not to intervene. Once the foal pops out, rubbing it vigorously and getting the afterbirth off are the best things you can do for the newborn but also for yourself to dissipate the adrenaline rush you have experienced. Then sit back in the corner of the stall and admire nature's handiwork.

Unfortunately, things do not always go as planned. Occasionally, the foal is dead or at least not breathing. Often you can resuscitate a foal by blowing air into one nostril while holding off the other or you can administer supplemental oxygen from a tank. The most dramatic thing that can happen post foaling is when the mare ruptures her uterine artery. Depending on the size of the rupture, the mare may linger for days during which time the injury may heal or she may die in tremendous colic-like agony.

When a mare dies shortly after foaling, it is normal to try to find a nurse mare to take over the duties of a mother for the foal. Nurse-mare farms exist anywhere there are a lot of foals being born. This used to be controversial because the nurse mares' foals would be taken away from their mothers at a young age and raised in an artificial environment. In an astonishing veterinary advance, barren mares can now be brought to lactation through a regimen of hormone therapy and once they have accepted the orphan their milk flows for as long as the foal nurses. Shortly before we retired, we had a 26-year-old retiree who hadn't had a foal in six years. Through this method she accepted and nursed a foal whose mother had died of colic. It really seemed like a miracle of science.

This relatively new advance in hormone therapy has at least two benefits. It allows foals to be raised in a normal environment, which saves hundreds of hours of care and feeding, and gives a new life to middle-aged mares who have not been successful at producing winners but are still healthy enough to nurture and raise foals. Nurse mares have become a win-win for the horse industry.

Earlier I wrote that contentment for a horseman means looking out, on a fall day, at a field full of pregnant mares peacefully grazing in a large pasture. In late spring and summer, it's the sight of bushy-tailed foals galloping in circles around their contented mothers on a brilliant summer's evening. ◆

Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program

— Grow your future with us —

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- Learn about the diverse career options in the Thoroughbred industry
- Meet leaders in all facets of the Thoroughbred industry
- Develop practical steps for pursuing a career in the Thoroughbred industry

MTCP

2022 Program Dates - June 6-10

Applications due April 22, 2022

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RETIRED RACEHORSE PROJECT

In Memoriam

SHERMAN CHIN

Sherman Chin of Arlington, Va., a longtime owner/breeder in the region, died in late November at age 91. A native of Washington, D.C., he graduated from Western High, served in the U.S. Air Force in the mid-1950s, and returned to study at American University, where he graduated in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry. Chin taught biology at Woodrow Wilson High before working at the National Institute of Health.

One of Chin's first good runners was one he let go as a 2-year-old in 1974. He had purchased War Exchange as a yearling, saw her finish third against colts in the Marlboro Nursery, and sold her privately to Herman Kossow that year. Not only would War Exchange become a stakes winner but she was a prolific producer and is the third dam of Hall of Famer, champion, classic winner and leading sire Curlin.

Chin campaigned stakes winner Sweet Chrissy, who captured the Summer Breeze Stakes at Timonium in 1982, and was co-breeder, in the name of Double Suez Partnership, with friends and partners Roy and Berne Smith of five-time stakes winner Cormorant's Flight. Chin also bred two-time Maryland Million Distaff Starter Handicap winner Hunca Munca.

A Cupid filly he bred and sold as a weanling, now named Saint Eros Girl, went for $100,000 at last April's OBS 2-year-old sale.

GEORGE COYLE

Retired trainer and farrier George R. Coyle of Churchville, Md., died Feb. 19 at the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Medical Center. He was 80 years old and the devoted spouse of 30 years to Andrea G. Lematta.

Born in Frankfort, Ky., Coyle trained and rode racehorses and traveled for those pursuits in addition to shipping horses and the blacksmith work. Often with five-horse trailer in tow, Coyle would leave on a moment's notice to take horses across the country, or to bring them home. He was a regular at many Mid-Atlantic tracks. With Lematta, he ran Fanta-Sea Farms and Three Rose Stable, and they bred, owned and trained numerous winners including Burn Babie Burn and her son Absolut Burn.

SUSIE MCDONALD

Susan G. McDonald, mother, grandmother, wife, sister, friend and animal lover, died Feb. 13. An accomplished gardener, McDonald was active with Ladew Topiary Gardens in Monkton, Md., and a regular at area steeplechase meets as an owner and enthusiast.

Twice, her Move-Up Stables' Swayo won the Maryland Hunt Cup—in 2000 and 2003. In addition, she campaigned River Bed—a stakes-placed hurdler who won 12 times on the flat and over jumps for Move-Up—and others.

Born in Chicago, Illinois and raised in California, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Robert B. Russell. She is survived by her husband Jim McDonald of Ruxton, Md., sister Mary Armour and brother-in-law Dan, son Craig Russell and daughter-in-law Nancy, son Robert Russell and daughter-in-law Alejandra, daughter Holly Westling and son-in-law Craig, daughter-in-law Luz Russell, and nine grandchildren. Memorial gifts can be made to Maryland Therapeutic Riding, 1141 Sunrise Beach Road, Crownsville, Md. 21031.

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Maryland Horse®

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MHBA creates aftercare account for registered Maryland-breds

The Maryland Horse Breeders Association has formed BackStop, an aftercare account to aid a specific need in the transition of registered Maryland-breds whose racing careers are over.

Intended to assist individuals or groups that take in, retrain or rehome Maryland-breds, BackStop is funded by a portion of registration fees. Fees were increased by $25 last summer to contribute to this initiative.

"We are committed to working with people who are dedicated to giving Maryland-breds a new start and a safe landing," said Cricket Goodall, MHBA executive director. "We know that breeders and owners want the best for their horses. This fund will be available for a specific use to benefit the Maryland-bred horse that needs the help."

BackStop funds will not relieve or replace the responsibility of the owner, breeder or trainer to establish a plan for their Maryland-bred once he or she is retired from racing, nor will it take the place of other funds or assistance received from programs such as Beyond the Wire, Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance or Thoroughbred Charities of America.

Instead, one-time funding of up to $2,000 will be available per individual horse, to assist in situations of immediate need such as short-term boarding costs, veterinary or therapeutic services, retraining costs, etc.

"The BackStop program is for a special niche situation," said MHBA Aftercare Committee Chairman Dr. Michael Harrison. "It could augment [other aftercare programs] or be the answer for a horse that is a registered Maryland-bred."

Funding from BackStop cannot be used for capital improvements or outside expenses that do not apply specifically to the horse named in the application.

"It makes it possible for people to get into this or take a horse that maybe they wouldn't have been able to take, so I think it's great. I usually take a loss on horses I have to rehab, and it's fine because this is what I like to do, but I understand that not all people can do that," said Alice Peirce, manager of Mantua Farm in Reisterstown, Md., and a member of the MHBA Aftercare Committee. "I know a lot of other people in my shoes would be able to consider more horses this way.

"A lot of people can't afford to pay board on something while it kind of just hangs out, so I feel like it would do a lot of good for the horses coming off the track who need a little extra TLC. Maybe people would take a second look at them if they had an opportunity like this."

Individuals or groups interested in funding must submit a form, available at marylandthoroughbred.com, where they must write a brief description of why they're seeking funds, a detailed explanation and timeline for the use of the money, and the ideal solution from utilizing the funds.

The MHBA's aftercare committee, made up of three members appointed by the president annually, will review applications and make recommendations as needed throughout the year.

Horses must be registered Maryland-breds to qualify for this program. To confirm eligibility, applicants can check the Maryland-bred registry at marylandthoroughbred.com or call the MHBA office at (410) 252-2100.

Maryland Foal Report

AGUACITA, by War Chant, b.f., Jan. 23, by Jess's Dream. Jim Hallman.

ANY GIVEN CHANCE, by Any Given Saturday, dk.b./br.f., Feb. 21, by Golden Lad. Sugarland LLC Equine Etiquette.

APPLAUD, by Medaglia d'Oro, b.c., Feb. 3, by West Coast. The Stables of Mezza Luna LLC.

AWESOME DAMA, by Corinthian, b.c., Feb. 17, by Irish War Cry. Maria Haire.

AWESOME ELLE, by Awesome Again, b.f., Feb. 17, by Bernardini. The Elkstone Group. Mare to Not This Time.

AWESOME SINGER, by Awesome Again, b.f., Jan. 31, by Great Notion. Jagger Inc. Mare to Outwork.

BEARSATLANTICMIST, by Stormy Atlantic, b.f., Jan. 12, by Great Notion. Jagger Inc. and Super C Racing Inc. Mare to Catalina Cruiser.

BEKKI'S DANCE, by Dance With Ravens, b.f., Feb. 20, by Holy Boss. Dr. Ronald H. Parker. Mare to Holy Boss.

BRONX CITY GIRL, by Yankee Gentleman, b.f., Jan. 23, by Classic Empire. Maria Haire.

CANDYSTAND, by Candy Ride (Arg), dk.b./br.c., Feb. 19, by Win Win Win. Michael Trombetta.

CHANGE UP, by Distorted Humor, ch.f., Feb. 22, by Uptowncharlybrown. Jagger Inc. Mare to Goldencents.

CODE NAME TAURUS, by Bullsbay, b.f., Feb. 26, by Hoppertunity. Erika Neuberg.

CONTRADANCE, by Yes It's True, b.c., Feb. 3, by Mosler. Bell Gable Stable.

DEREK'S GATOR GIRL, by Brother Derek, b.c., Feb. 14, by Madefromlucky. Charles Biggs.

DEVIL'S CAVE, by Put It Back, b.f., Jan. 28, by Ghostzapper. The Elkstone Group. Mare to Flatter.

DISCATSONTHESQUARE, by Square Eddie, ch.c., Feb. 3, by Stanford. Black Cloud Racing Stable LLC.

DOUBLECLICKDAMOUSE, by Point of Entry, b.c., Feb. 11, by Hoppertunity. Ralph Santella.

ECLIPTICALSROSETTE, by Storm Wolf, b.f., Jan. 11, by Hoppertunity. Maria Haire.

ELENA SAYS HELLO, by Harlan's Holiday, b.f., Feb. 16, by Uncle Lino. Robert Stone.

FAST FIONNUALA, by Verrazano, b.c., Feb. 22, by Uncle Lino. SAB Stables Inc.

FREE KITTY, by Tale of the Cat, ch.c., Feb. 7, by Cupid. Barak Farm.

GIRLS GOT RHYTHUM, by Zensational, ch.f., Feb. 19, by Golden Lad. WWCD LLC. Mare to Rainbow Heir.

KISS IN THE FOREST, by Forest Wildcat, ch.f., Feb. 18, by Cupid. Barak Farm and Sharon Dodgen.

KITTYLUCK, by Exchange Rate, b.c., Feb. 18, by Accelerate. Best A Luck Farm.

LAURA'S MOON, by Malibu Moon, b.c., Jan. 12, by Bolt d'Oro. Country Life Farm and Mike Stone.

LIFEFLIGHT, by Quality Road, b.c., Feb. 9, by Runhappy. James McIngvale.

LUNAR RILLE, by English Channel, b.c., Jan. 29, by Bolt d'Oro. Country Life Farm and Lunar Rille LLC.

MAJESTIC MELRESA, by Majestic Warrior, ch.f., Feb. 13, by Madefromlucky. Best A Luck Farm.

MAKE AMENDS, by Malibu Moon, b.c., Feb. 8, by Maclean's Music. Country Life Farm and Make Amends LLC.

MEDEA (IRE), by Danehill Dancer, b.f., Feb. 5, by Violence. The Elkstone Group. Mare to Violence.

MILL AND GLORIA, by Majestic Warrior, b.f., Feb. 23, by Runhappy. Jagger Inc.

Sabrina Moore

First foal for the Union Rags mare Ask Siri is a Mo Town filly bred by Rodney Williams.

George Adams

Include colt out of Kuznetsov bred by Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC, Greenspring Mares LLC and Connie S. Black.

Sabrina Moore

Clever Girl with her filly by Good Magic bred by Walt Vieser.

George Adams

Wasabi Ventures Stables and Greenspring Mares are breeders of the Jimmy Creed filly out of Mission Good Karma.

Ellen Pons

Jay Reese's mare Sharons in Charge (by Will Take Charge) and her first foal, a colt by Tom's d'Etat.

Ellen Pons

First foal for Lifeflight (by Quality Road) is a colt by Runhappy.

George Adams

Demarchelier (GB) filly out of Coffee Pond (Ire), bred by Wasabi Ventures Stables, Michael J. Dzik, Brian Dunn, et al.

MISS MARGARET, by Bwana Charlie, b.c., Feb. 1, by St Patrick's Day. Maria Haire.
MISS MYSTIQUE, by Teuflesberg, ch.f., Jan. 14, by Global Campaign. Country Life Farm and Miss Mystique LLC.
MISS SWEETNESS, by Belong to Me, ch.c., Jan. 28, by Super Ninety Nine. Robert and Mary Atkinson.
MOOJI MOO, by Jeblar, b.c., Feb. 10, by Madefromlucky. Robert Deckert.
MOON VISION, by Pollard's Vision, b.c., Feb. 17, by Jimmy Creed. Country Life Farm and Moon Vision Broodmare LLC.
MUST BE FATE, by Eurosilver, dk.b./br.c., Feb. 24, by Malibu Moon. Best A Luck Farm.
MY MAGICIAN, by Street Magician, ch.f., Feb. 24, by More Than Ready. Valter Ramos.
MY MISCHIEF, by Into Mischief, b.f., Jan. 15, by Thousand Words. Mr. and Mrs. A. John Price.
OL SANISH, by Curlin, b.c., Feb. 7, by Great Notion. James B. Steele. Mare to Goldencents.
OUR CURLENE, by Curlin, b.f., Feb. 6, by Divining Rod. Barak Farm and Sharon Dodgen.
PIONEER KATE, by Pioneerof the Nile, b.f., Jan. 31, by Eclipticalspraline. Maria Haire.
PLEASANTLY SWEET, by Twirling Candy, b.f., Feb. 16, by Runhappy. James McIngvale.
REQUESTING, by Giant's Causeway, ch.c., Jan. 30, by Global Campaign. Barak Farm.
SAINTS PAYNTER, by Paynter, b.f., Jan. 16, by Golden Lad. Konrad Wayson.

Sabrina Moore

Mosler—Party Nights (GB) filly is bred and owned by The Fields Stable.

Ellen Pons

Jimmy Creed colt with his dam Moon Vision, a winning Pollard's Vision mare who is a half-sister to stakes winner Mayla.

SHARONS IN CHARGE, by Will Take Charge, ch.c., Feb. 10, by Tom's d'Etat. Jay Reese.
SILENT LEGACY, by Silent Name (Jpn), dk.b./br.c., Feb. 23, by Golden Lad. Carl Lanier.
SOMETHINGELSE, by Leroidesanimaux (Brz), b.c., Feb. 22, by Twirling Candy. The Elkstone Group. Mare to Midnight Lute.
SUGAR SHACK, by Shackleford, b.f., Feb. 4, by Divining Rod. James Stevenson.
THIRST FOR DIAMOND, by Stay Thirsty, b.f., Jan. 19, by Hoppertunity. Paul Neiber.
TRIPSCAR, by Stroll, b.f., Feb. 18, by Mosler. Barak Farm.
WHAT A REWARD, by Warrior's Reward, b.c., Feb. 12, by Hoppertunity. Flying H Stables, LLC.
WILD RIVER CAT, by Pioneerof the Nile, ch.f., Jan. 26, by Eclipticalspraline. Maria M. Haire and Mary K. Haire.
WILL DO, by Roman Ruler, b.f., Jan. 31, by Mosler. Bell Gable Stable.
YOUGOTTABEKITTEN, by Kitten's Joy, b.c., Feb. 18, by Divining Rod. Bell Gable Stable.

Foals Wanted

Send your foal reports and photographs of 2022 foals for inclusion on the Maryland Horse Breeders Association website *Maryland Horse Weekly* and *The Maryland Horse* newsletter. Email information to cdeubler@marylandthoroughbred.com. Or submit online at MarylandThoroughbred.com/foalreport.

Maryland Horse Foundation provides step toward career

In less than five years, the Maryland Horse Foundation has provided growth opportunities and learning experiences for participants in two of its programs–the Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program and the Work Experience Program. A recent testimonial came from Elizabeth Moorman, who spent her winter break as an intern at Bonita Farm in Darlington.

"My time working in the Maryland Horse Foundation's Work Experience Program was invaluable in helping me reach my career aspirations," she wrote. "I have been in love with horses, and specifically horse racing, for as long as I can remember, which is why I want to make this my career. I participated in the Maryland Thoroughbred Career Program in 2019, which gave me a broad overview of the many opportunities for careers in the Thoroughbred industry. Since then, I have been eagerly trying to gain experience in the Thoroughbred industry while in undergrad to help prepare me for a career."

The University of Maryland, College Park, student will graduate in May with a degree in Animal Science.

"The Work Experience Program was the perfect opportunity, as it allowed me to work firsthand in the industry in a position suited to my interests.

"I am so thankful to the Maryland Horse Foundation and Bonita Farm for the opportunity to get this kind of experience that cannot be learned inside a classroom. All the care and hard work that goes into an operation like Bonita Farm is for the love of the horse, which I am happy to be a part of. I'm leaving this internship with a strengthened sense of love for this industry and this sport and am excited to pursue a career with Thoroughbreds upon graduation."

Read more from the participants at marylandhorse.com.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2022

(through March 1)

1. Knicks Go	$585,000	11. Gamestonks	$57,744
2. Cordmaker	195,000	12. Response Time	56,896
3. Luna Belle	120,000	13. Princess Kokachin	56,368
4. Kiss the Girl	117,000	14. Air Token	53,869
5. Mama G's Wish	90,045	15. Acadian Girl	50,976
6. Proper Attire	75,590	16. All for Love	50,577
7. Local Motive	70,000	17. Torch of Truth	49,368
8. Going to the Lead	68,544	18. Al Loves Josie	48,288
9. Galerio	67,500	19. Goldenize	47,335
10. Waterworks	63,180	20. Karan's Notion	46,176

Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races at Maryland tracks
December 1 to December 31, 2021

Maryland Juvenile Championship Stakes

December 18. Purse $100,000-guaranteed. For 2-year-olds, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland sired. 7 fur. 12 competed. (Closed with 27 nominations.) Winner: JOE, by Declaration of War. Breeder bonus: The Elkstone Group LLC ($9,000). Stallion bonus: None. Second: ALOTTAHOPE, by Editorial. Breeder bonus: Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman ($3,000). Stallion bonus: Climax Stallions LLC ($1,000). Third: West Virginia-bred by Great Notion.

Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship Stakes

December 18. Purse $100,000-guaranteed. For 2-year-old fillies, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland sired. 7 fur. 7 competed. (Closed with 22 nominations.) Winner: LUNA BELLE, by Great Notion. Breeder bonus: Fred A. Greene Jr., Deborah Greene and Hamilton Smith ($9,000). Stallion bonus: Great Notion Syndicate ($3,000). Second: JESTER CALLS NOJOY, by Maclean's Music. Breeder bonus: The Elkstone Group LLC ($3,000). Stallion bonus: None. Third: SWEET GRACIE, by Bandbox. Breeder bonus: Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC ($1,500). Stallion bonus: Bandbox Syndicate ($500).

Breeder bonuses

Linda L. Albert—Mit Mazel: Dec. 17, 8th race, $8,640.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—Uncommon Valor: Dec. 30, 5th race, $1,890.

Angelinos Racing LLC—Blueberry Indygo: Dec. 17, 7th race, $1,170.

Barak Farm—Lectric Choke: Dec. 19, 6th race, $1,020. Spanikopita: Dec. 17, 6th race, $5,670. ($6,690)

William Bayne and Super C Racing—Bliss This: Dec. 18, 5th race, $1,170.

Patricia Beck and Richard C. Beck—Daily Planet: Dec. 18, 1st race, $1,890.

Best A Luck Farm LLC—Pickin Sea Glass: Dec. 16, 3rd race, $1,170. Shemademelucky: Dec. 27, 7th race, $4,500. ($5,670)

David Benjamin Bloom—Tyreek: Dec. 26, 4th race, $3,960.

Richard F. Blue Jr.—Hair of the Dog: Dec. 18, 9th race, $3,780; Dec. 31, 2nd race, $3,780. Rising Perry: Dec. 16, 1st race, $690. ($8,250)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Michael Bishop—Image Maker: Dec. 30, 5th race, $945.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Alottahope: Dec. 18, 8th race, $3,000.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Shawn M. Howser—Bourbon Wildcat: Dec. 16, 6th race, $7,200.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and R. Larry Johnson—Up Against It: Dec. 31, 8th race, $8,640.

Derek Brown—Sloe Gin Biz: Dec. 26, 1st race, $945.

Shellaine Brown, Susan Baldrige, Horseshoe Valley and Treasure Stable—Going to the Lead: Dec. 30, 7th race, $2,880.

Jerome C. Burdick—Tenax: Dec. 16, 3rd race, $7,020.

William Andrew Campbell—Seven On the Rocks: Dec. 30, 7th race, $1,440.

CandyLand Farm—Galilean Moon: Dec. 16, 2nd race, $510.

Melissa Cantacuzene—Charming Way: Dec. 17, 7th race, $2,340.

Christine Clagett and Leslie Elizabeth Wilson—My Super Sally: Dec. 17, 9th race, $1,260.

Classic Thoroughbred XII—Kiss the Girl: Dec. 26, 7th race, $1,500.

Cordelia Stables LLC—Dontforgettoblink: Dec. 26, 1st race, $5,670.

Country Life Farm—Ace Nine Nine: Dec. 19, 4th race, $720. Maid the Journey: Dec. 17, 4th race, $3,780; Dec. 27, 5th race, $660. ($5,160)

Country Life Farm and As Long As Ittakes LLC—Jasontakeslong: Dec. 27, 9th race, $2,070.

Country Life Farm and Laura's Moon LLC—Joe Mike Jim: Dec. 19, 3rd race, $945.

Country Life Farm and Sassy Molly LLC—Pepe and Heywood: Dec. 19, 5th race, $1,020.

Dark Hollow Farm and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Davidov—Combat Queen: Dec. 27, 2nd race, $1,980.

D. Hatman Thoroughbreds LLC—Notion Interruptus: Dec. 30, 9th race, $510.

George L. Doetsch—Winston's Gold: Dec. 26, 1st race, $1,890.

Robert E. Gamber—Crying for More: Dec. 17, 4th race, $1,260.

Germania Farms Inc.—Scintillio: Dec. 18, 3rd race, $1,170.

Glenangus Farm LLC—Pearlyville: Dec. 19, 1st race, $630.

Fred A. Greene Jr., Deborah Greene and Hamilton Smith—Luna Belle: Dec. 18, 7th race, $9,000.

Greenspring Mares LLC—Writtenbythestars: Dec. 30, 9th race, $1,020.

Mary Haire—Stormin' Cougar: Dec. 19, 3rd race, $5,670.

Michael J. Harrison DVM—Judi Blue Eyes: Dec. 31, 7th race, $3,120.

Tiffany Harrison and Justin Harrison—San Antone: Dec. 26, 4th race, $1,320.

Hillwood Stable LLC—Bunting: Dec. 19, 8th race, $1,680. Steely Band: Dec. 19, 1st race, $3,780. ($5,460)

Holly House Farm—Summer Odds: Dec. 17, 6th race, $945.

Ann B. Jackson—Artful Splatter: Dec. 26, 7th race, $3,000.

Jagger Inc.—Stevethevandriver: Dec. 19, 2nd race, $6,210.

R. Larry Johnson—Magic in Me: Dec. 27, 7th race, $1,500. Who Knows What: Dec. 17, 1st race, $960. ($2,460)

Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—Mailman's a Flyer: Dec. 16, 3rd race, $2,340.

Carl Lanier—He's Orientate: Dec. 16, 4th race, $1,980.

Estate of Robert T. Manfuso—Chauffeur: Dec. 18, 9th race, $1,260.

Robert T. Manfuso and Katharine M. Voss—Cordmaker: Dec. 26, 8th race, $9,000. No More Talk: Dec. 17, 3rd race, $1,680. ($10,680)

Marathon Farm Inc.—Bustoff: Dec. 16, 7th race, $10,080. Fool Yourself: Dec. 18, 2nd race, $1,200. ($11,280)

Daniel E. Marconi—Galerio: Dec. 30, 8th race, $3,120.

William Meister and Julie Arbogast—Peace Out: Dec. 19, 7th race, $1,170. Zen Pi: Dec. 16, 1st race, $4,140. ($5,310)

Mezza Luna Farm LLC—Magical Luna: Dec. 16, 6th race, $1,200.

Audrey R. Murray—Pet's Night: Dec. 19, 5th race, $3,060.

Nancy Lee Farms—Polish Cookie: Dec. 19, 7th race, $2,340.

Northview Stallion Station Inc.—All for Love: Dec. 19, 2nd race, $2,070.

Cynthia K. Rickman—Crownedcountcristo: Dec. 30, 4th race, $1,500.

Nancy M. Rizer and Eric A. Rizer—Princess Kokachin: Dec. 26, 5th race, $3,000.

Timothy J. Rooney—Money's Worth: Dec. 17, 7th race, $7,020.

John Ryan and Monica Ryan—Pascal Chant: Dec. 19, 4th race, $1,440.

Sagamore Farm LLC—Youngest of Five: Dec. 26, 6th race, $1,500.

Shamrock Farm—Ran Char: Dec. 26, 9th race, $1,440.

M. Terry Shane—Margie's Heaven: Dec. 19, 8th race, $3,360.

Sinatra Thoroughbred Racing and Breeding—Edict: Dec. 31, 5th race, $510.

Mary Slade—Island Philo: Dec. 17, 6th race, $1,890.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton A. Smith—Stone Courageous: Dec. 27, 4th race, $1,200.

Matt Spencer and Kelly Cox—Ain't Da Beer Cold: Dec. 27, 4th race, $2,400.

Sweet Spirits Stables LLC—Fille d'Esprit: Dec. 19, 8th race, $10,080.

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Addy's Laddy T N T: Dec. 18, 3rd race, $2,340. Doubleoseven: Dec. 30, 8th race, $9,360. Paisley Singing: Dec. 26, 5th race, $1,500. Sweet Gracie: Dec. 18, 7th race, $1,500. Torch Carrier: Dec. 17, 9th race, $3,780. ($18,480)

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC and Ellen Charles—Closertotheheart: Dec. 17, 1st race, $1,920.

The Elkstone Group LLC—Can't Pass It Up: Dec. 27, 4th race, $7,200. Jester Calls Nojoy: Dec. 18, 7th race, $3,000. Joe: Dec. 18, 8th race, $9,000. Lifespan: Dec. 19, 5th race, $510. Prince of Portland: Dec. 31, 1st race, $4,320. Senator Kelly: Dec. 18, 5th race, $2,340. Torch of Truth: Dec. 16, 7th race, $3,360. ($29,730)

Thornmar Farm LLC—Canoodle: Dec. 19, 7th race, $7,020.

University of Maryland—Fearless Lassie: Dec. 30, 9th race, $3,060.

Walter N. Vieser II—All Threes: Dec. 30, 7th race, $8,640. Italian Dressing: Dec. 18, 6th race, $1,440. ($10,080)

David H. Wade—Miss Chesapeake: Dec. 18, 2nd race, $7,200.

Mr. and Mrs. Bayne Welker Jr.—Deshackled: Dec. 30, 4th race, $750.

Winding Creek Farm—Whiskey and You: Dec. 16, 7th race, $1,680.

Lana Wright—El Bochinche: Dec. 19, 1st race, $1,260.

WWCD LLC—Mattitude: Dec. 16, 6th race, $2,400.

Stallion bonuses

ADMIRAL ALEX (Crying for More: Dec. 17, 4th race, $420): Leon Blusiewicz.

BANDBOX (Artful Splatter: Dec. 26, 7th race, $1,000. Bunting: Dec. 19, 8th race, $560. Pickin Sea Glass: Dec. 16, 3rd race, $390. Steely Band: Dec. 19, 1st race, $1,260. Sweet Gracie: Dec. 18, 7th race, $500): Bandbox Syndicate—$3,710.

BARBADOS (Island Philo: Dec. 17, 6th race, $630): Shamrock Farm.

BLOFELD (Charming Way: Dec. 17, 7th race, $780): Blofeld Syndicate.

BOURBON COURAGE (Bourbon Wildcat: Dec. 16, 6th race, $2,400. San Antone: Dec. 26, 4th race, $440. Senator Kelly: Dec. 18, 5th race, $780. Stone Courageous: Dec. 27, 4th race, $400. Uncommon Valor: Dec. 30, 5th race, $630): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$4,650.

BUFFUM (My Super Sally: Dec. 17, 9th race, $420): Buffum Syndicate.

CAL NATION (Judi Blue Eyes: Dec. 31, 7th race, $1,040): Cal Nation Syndicate.

DESPITE THE ODDS (Summer Odds: Dec. 17, 6th race, $315. Up Against It: Dec. 31, 8th race, $2,880): R. Larry Johnson—$3,195.

DIVINING ROD (Bliss This: Dec. 18, 5th race, $390. Dontforgettoblink: Dec. 26, 1st race, $1,890. Jasontakeslong: Dec. 27, 9th race, $690): Divining Rod Syndicate—$2,970.

EDITORIAL (Alottahope: Dec. 18, 8th race, $1,000. Daily Planet: Dec. 18, 1st race, $630): Climax Stallions LLC—$1,630.

ETCHED (Pascal Chant: Dec. 19, 4th race, $480): Bonita Farm Stallion Partnership.

FREEDOM CHILD (Ain't Da Beer Cold: Dec. 27, 4th race, $800. Mit Mazel: Dec. 17, 8th race, $2,880): Freedom Child Syndicate—$3,680.

FRIESAN FIRE (Whiskey and You: Dec. 16, 7th race, $560): Friesan Fire Syndicate.

GOLDEN LAD (Addy's Laddy T N T: Dec. 18, 3rd race, $780. Crownedcountcristo: Dec. 30, 4th race, $500. Margie's Heaven: Dec. 19, 8th race, $1,120. Paisley Singing: Dec. 26, 5th race, $500. Winston's Gold: Dec. 26, 1st race, $630): Golden Lad Syndicate—$3,530.

GREAT NOTION (All Threes: Dec. 30, 7th race, $2,880. Closertotheheart: Dec. 17, 1st race, $640. El Bochinche: Dec. 19, 1st race, $420. Fille d'Esprit: Dec. 19, 8th race, $3,360. Italian Dressing: Dec. 18, 6th race, $480. Luna Belle: Dec. 18, 7th race, $3,000. Mattitude: Dec. 16, 6th race, $800. Notion Interruptus: Dec. 30, 9th race, $170. Peace Out: Dec. 19, 7th race, $390. Stevethevandriver: Dec. 19, 2nd race, $2,070. Tenax: Dec. 16, 3rd race, $2,340. Zen Pi: Dec. 16, 1st race, $1,380): Great Notion Syndicate—$17,930.

HANGOVER KID (Hair of the Dog: Dec. 18, 9th race, $1,260; Dec. 31, 2nd race, $1,260): Hangover Kid Syndicate—$2,520.

IMAGINING (Image Maker: Dec. 30, 5th race, $315): Imagining Syndicate.

MADEFROMLUCKY (All for Love: Dec. 19, 2nd race, $690. Shemademelucky: Dec. 27, 7th race, $1,500): Madefromlucky Syndicate—$2,190.

MOSLER (Blueberry Indygo: Dec. 17, 7th race, $390. Fool Yourself: Dec. 18, 2nd race, $400. Joe Mike Jim: Dec. 19, 3rd race, $315. Pepe and Heywood: Dec. 19, 5th race, $340): Mosler Syndicate—$1,445.

NICANOR (Ran Char: Dec. 26, 9th race, $480): Nicanor Syndicate.

NOT FOR LOVE (No More Talk: Dec. 17, 3rd race, $560. Torch of Truth: Dec. 16, 7th race, $1,120): Not For Love Syndicate—$1,680.

ORIENTATE (He's Orientate: Dec. 16, 4th race, $660. Rising Perry: Dec. 16, 1st race, $230): Orientate Syndicate—$890.

PETIONVILLE (Pet's Night: Dec. 19, 5th race, $1,020): Everest Stables Inc.

REDEEMED (Going to the Lead: Dec. 30, 7th race, $960): Redeemed Syndicate.

ROCK SLIDE (Seven On the Rocks: Dec. 30, 7th race, $480): Shamrock Farms.

SEVILLE (GER) (Pearlyville: Dec. 19, 1st race, $210. Polish Cookie: Dec. 19, 7th race, $780. Tyreek: Dec. 26, 4th race, $1,320): Seville Syndicate—$2,310.

STREET MAGICIAN (Magical Luna: Dec. 16, 6th race, $400): R. Larry Johnson.

SUPER NINETY NINE (Ace Nine Nine: Dec. 19, 4th race, $240. Maid the Journey: Dec. 17, 4th race, $1,260; Dec. 27, 5th race, $220): Country Life Farm—$1,720.

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

Post Time

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **April 2022** -

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Horologist repeats as New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year

COGLIANESE PHOTOS/CHELSEA DURAND

Two-time New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year and Champion Older Female Horologist ended her racing career with earnings of $962,939.

There's A Chance Stable, Medallion Racing, Abbondanza Racing LLC, Parkland Thoroughbreds, Paradise Farms Corp. and David Staudacher's Horologist has been named 2021 New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year and champion older female by the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey for the second consecutive year.

Horologist started her 5-year-old campaign with a 1-length win in the $100,000 Top Flight Invitational Stakes at Aqueduct in April. Following two off the board finishes, she made her next two starts at Saratoga, finishing a game second to Royal Flag in the Shuvee Stakes-G3 before turning in a dominating 8½-length score in the Summer Colony. Trained by Bill Mott, Horologist ran second in the Beldame Stakes-G2 at Belmont Park in October before wrapping up her career in the Longines Breeders' Cup Distaff-G1 at Del Mar.

Horologist was sold just days after the Breeders' Cup at the 2021 Keeneland November Breeding Stock sale for $800,000 to Katsumi Yoshida.

The daughter of Gemologist out of Cinderella Time, by Stephen Got Even, finished 2021 with $247,500 in earnings. She won nine of 27 career starts with earnings of $962,939. Horologist was bred in New Jersey by Holly Crest Farm.

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He'spuregold named Champion Turf Runner

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Winner of Monmouth's Irish War Cry Handicap, He'spuregold is the Champion Turf Runner.

He'spuregold was one of two 2021 champions for breeder/owner John Bowers Jr. and trainer Kelly J. Breen as he took home the honor of champion turf runner. The 3-year-old son of Vancouver, out of two-time New Jersey-bred champion Smart N Classy (by Smart Strike), won the Irish War Cry Handicap at 1 mile on the turf in the race after he broke his maiden. He finished a close up fourth in the Saranac Stakes-G3 at Saratoga before an off-the-board finish in the Hill Prince Stakes-G2 at Belmont to end his season.

His dam Smart N Classy was a graded stakes winner of $466,209 for John Bowers Jr. As a broodmare, she has produced multiple stakes winner and 2019 New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year Valedictorian ($761,115) and stakes winner Stay Smart ($266,080).

Speaking named Champion 2-Year-Old

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Champion 2-Year-Old Speaking winning the $100,000 Smoke Glacken Stakes at Monmouth Park.

Holly Crest Farm homebred Speaking is the New Jersey-bred champion 2-year-old after winning two of his four starts. The son of Mr Speaker out of the Silver Deputy mare High Noon Nellie won his debut Aug. 29 by 6¼ lengths against New Jersey-bred maiden special weight company. He followed up with a convincing score in the $100,000 Smoke Glacken Stakes against open company at Monmouth by 3¼ lengths.

Speaking finished his 2-year-old campaign with a second-place finish in the $100,000 Parx Juvenile Stakes Dec. 29 at Parx Racing. Trained by Eddie Owens Jr., the dark bay gelding had juvenile earnings of $141,425.

Pickin' Time named Champion 3-year-old and Champion Sprinter

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Pickin' Time, shown winning the New Jersey Breeders Handicap against older runners, takes home Champion 3-Year-Old and Champion Sprinter titles.

John Bowers Jr.'s homebred Pickin' Time was named champion 3-year-old and champion sprinter after a successful campaign that finished with two stakes wins and a graded stakes placing. The son of Stay Thirsty out of the King of Kings (Ire) mare Born to Royalty won the $100,000 New Jersey Breeders Handicap at 6 furlongs against older rivals Aug. 29 at Monmouth Park. He followed with a second to Eclipse Award-winning sprinter Jackie's Warrior in the $300,000 Gallant Bob Stakes-G2 at Parx before a fifth-place finish in the Perryville Stakes at Keeneland.

The dark bay colt ended his campaign with a 1¼-length win in the $100,000 City of Laurel Stakes at 7 furlongs at Laurel Park. He earned $241,300 his 3-year-old season under the care of trainer Kelly J. Breen.

Golden Brown honored as Champion Older Male

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

A multiple stakes winner on turf and dirt, Golden Brown is shown winning the John J. Reilly Handicap en route to being named Champion Older Male.

ABL Stables, Dominic Bossone, Peter Donnelly and Nadine Schnoor's Golden Brown was named champion older male after his stakes-winning 6-year-old campaign in which he won three stakes and earned $204,950. Golden Brown finished second in the Mr. Prospector May 29 in his first start of the year and was moved up to first following a medication violation of the winner. He added the $75,000 John J. Reilly Handicap July 4 by 2¾ lengths, finished second to champion 3-year-old and champion sprinter Pickin' Time in the $100,000 New Jersey Breeders' Handicap, and finished his season with a 1-length score in the Joey P. Handicap at 5 furlongs over the Monmouth Park turf in :56:55.

Bred in New Jersey by Esther de Jong, the son of Offlee Wild out of the Chester House mare Suzee Sunrise has reached the winner's circle in 10 of 31 starts, for earnings of $800,620.

Cinderella Time honored as Broodmare of the Year

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

The best offspring of Cinderella Time is undoubtedly two-time New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year and Champion Older Female Horologist, shown winning the 2020 Molly Pitcher Stakes-G3 at Monmouth Park, one of three graded wins in her career.

Cinderella Time was honored as Broodmare of the Year in 2021. Holly Crest Farm bred the 11-year-old daughter of Stephen Got Even and the Defrere mare Dethroned. Her first foal is two-time New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year Horologist.

Cinderella Time produced two other New Jersey-breds, both unraced – the filly A P Lucky (2017, Lookin At Lucky) and colt Lost Slipper (2019, Peace and Justice). She was sold in foal at the 2019 Keeneland November Breeding Stock Sale to Michael Lischin and Bob Petersen's Stables for $245,000 and has since produced fillies by Twirling Candy and More Than Ready and is foal to Speightstown.

Hey Chub repeats as the Stallion of the Year

Hey Chub is the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey's Stallion of the Year for the sixth time in his career. The 22-year-old son of Carson City out of Donna Doo, by Spend a Buck, was a multiple stakes-winning New Jersey-bred who hit the board in 30 of his 36 starts and earned $441,755.

Hey Chub has sired such New Jersey-bred champions Chublicious ($653,393), winner of the 2017 Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash Stakes, and Brother Chub ($542,336). His runners in 2021 included six-time stakes winner Chub Wagon, who has won 10 of 11 career starts, with one second, while earning $533,600.

Law Legacy Stables Joel R. Weiner passes away at 76

New Jersey breeder and owner Joel R. Weiner, 76, passed away Feb. 2. Joel bred horses and raced under Law Legacy Stable for many years and was a great supporter of the New Jersey breeding and racing industries. Joel never missed a race when his horses were running and enjoyed his most recent success with Alta Velocita. Bred by Law Legacy Stables, the mare won six of her 10 starts in 2021 at 5, including the $100,000 Eleven North Handicap.

Joel stood Il Postino for his stud career after he finished racing and supported the stallion with most of his mares. Il Postino's progeny had their best year in 2021, with earnings over $634,000, led by his daughter Alta Velocita, and he ranked as New Jersey's leading active sire.

Weiner leaves behind his beloved wife Linda Cipolla Weiner. He was the devoted father of daughter Kristen Mooney and three stepdaughters that he raised as his own, Dana Lynn Santiago (Orlando), Allison Voss (Holger), and Kristen Fitzer, as well as 10 adoring grandchildren. Joel was a loving husband, father and grandfather.

Joel grew up in Dunellen, N.J., attended college at the University of Miami and received his law degree at Rutgers Law School. He worked as a tax attorney for over 40 years.

Joel had a life well lived. He was surrounded by people who loved him immensely and he leaves us all with memories that will last a lifetime. He loved the beach, music, his stable of race horses, but most of all his family who simply cherished him. Spending time with his family and giving his girls and grandchildren new experiences, whether it was teaching them how to play sports or chess, watching their ball games or making irreplaceable memories. He was so brilliant, his family loved having conversations with him on a wide range of topics. Joel's favorite phrase was "be resilient", something his loved ones will attempt to do in his absence.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the St. Hubert's Animal Welfare North Branch 3201 US-22, Somerville, N.J. 08876.

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

April 2022

President's message

Please help me congratulate the connections for our NCTA 2021 champion horses and Breeder of the Year, Beth Muirhead. /Rebecca

Category	Horse	Connection
2021 Champion Partnership	Virginia Beach	Owned by James Jones in Partnership
2021 Champion two-year old	Tough to Tame	Bred by Elizabeth Muirhead
2021 Champion Claiming Male	Double Tough Tiger	Bred by Elizabeth Muirhead
2021 Champion Claiming Female	Hostile Princess	Bred by Nancy Shuford
2021 Champion Allowance Male	Cheeky Chaps	Bred by Nancy Shuford
2021 Champion Allowance Female	Firing Carol	Bred by Nancy Shuford
2021 Champion Steeplechase Horse	Boss Man	Owned by William & Carrington Price
2021 Champion Stakes Horse	Shea D Summer	Owned by Dan & Christy Shea
2021 Champion Graded Stakes Horse	Tough To Tame	Bred by Elizabeth Muirhead
2021 Champion Broodmare	She'sa Tough Tiger	Bred & owned by Elizabeth Muirhead
2021 Breeder of the Year		Elizabeth Muirhead

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

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Racing Review

Bank On Shea (Central Banker out of Miss Moultree, by Uncle Mo) won the Pelican Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs Feb. 12 for owner Dan Shea. The 5-year-old bay horse ran 6 furlongs in 1:09.61 on a fast track. He moved inward and tracked the pace through the backstretch, bid for the lead just past the quarter pole, made light contact while passing the front-runner mid-stretch, held sway and crossed the wire to win by a neck.

Shooters Shoot (Competitive Edge out of Repeat, by Bernardini) ran second in the $200,000 Palos Verdes Stakes-G2 at Santa Anita Park Jan. 29 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 5-year-old bay gelding broke from post position 4 to run 6 furlongs on a fast track.

Flat Out Flying (Flat Out out of She'sa Tough Tiger, by Tiger Ridge) ran second at Parx Racing Feb. 7 for breeders Beth

Bank On Shea (right) wins the Pelican Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs for owner Dan Shea – Shea D Boy's Stables. Credit: SV Photography

Muirhead and Frank Congilio. The 6-year-old gelding ran 1 1/16 miles on a muddy, sealed track breaking from post 2.

My Dixie Lass (Blofeld out of Missdixie-activist, by Activist) ran second at Penn National Feb. 18 for breeder/owner Jim Chandley. The 3-year-old bay filly ran 1 mile and 70 yards breaking from post 3 on a fast track.

Gulfstream Way (Gemologist out of Clever Cookie, by Smart Strike) ran third at the Fairgrounds Feb. 3 for owner Denise Walsh – Never Better Stables LLC. The 4-year-old bay gelding ran 1 1/16 miles on a sloppy, sealed track.

Danz a Rebel (Revolutionary out of Sister Chelsey, by Chelsey Cat) ran third at Fonner Park Feb. 19 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 6-year-old dark bay gelding ran 6 furlongs on a fast track breaking from post 6.

Icecap (Carpe Diem out of One Foxy Grey, by Big Brown) ran third at Turfway Park Feb. 24 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 5-year-old grey or roan horse ran 1 mile on a fast, all-weather track, breaking from post 3.

Hitting the Board

January 25 – February 24, 2022

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	RESULTS
27-Jan	Cayenne Creek	Charles Town	Bred by Clint Lowry	3rd
29-Jan	Shooters Shoot	Santa Anita-$200K Palos Verdes S G3	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
3-Feb	Gulfstream Way	Fair Grounds	Bred & owned by Denise Walsh	3rd
7-Feb	Flat Out Flying	Parx Racing	Beth Muirhead & Frank Coniglio	2nd
12-Feb	Bank On Shea	Tampa Bay Downs - $100K Pelican S	Owned by Dan & Christy Shea - Shea D Boys Stable	**WINNER!**
2-18	My Dixie Lass	Penn National	Bred & owned by Jim Chandley	2nd.
19-Feb	Danz a Rebel	Fonner Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
24-Feb	Icecap	Turfway Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd

PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

April 2022
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

VISIT PABRED.COM

- **Racing and breeding news**
- **PA-Bred entries/results**
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Just One Time brings the excitement

A FARM FAVORITE TURNED STAKES WINNER

by Emily Shields

LAUREN KING/COGLIANESE PHOTOS

In the weeks leading up to a race, Donny Brown has trouble containing his excitement. And if he wins? Cue more weeks of overflowing thrill.

Thanks to Just One Time, Brown is currently riding a high. The Pennsylvania-bred daughter of Not This Time—Ida Clark, by Speightstown, won the Grade 2, $200,000 Inside Information Stakes at Gulfstream Park on Jan. 29, defeating a strong field by three-quarters of a length as the 3-2 favorite. She now sports a record of five wins in six starts, including three stakes.

Brown's Warriors Reward LLC has had several solid runners including multiple allowance winner Proposition and the remarkably consistent Little-bitalily. But from the day she was born, it was clear Just One Time was a cut above the rest.

"She was a farm favorite as a baby," Brown said. "We had high hopes for her going into training."

The "we" in question includes Tom McClay, Brown's racing partner. Together they bought Warrior's Reward, a Grade 1-winning son of Medaglia d'Oro, and brought him to stand in Pennsylvania at WynOaks Farm. Just One Time is just the next big thing the duo have going, along with some 24 broodmares. Missing among them is Just One Time's dam Ida Clark.

"We were happy with the foal we got, so we sold the mare," Brown said of Ida Clark. "She had developed commercial value so we let her go through the auction ring so we could get a new mare. In hindsight, it was a bad move."

Ida Clark cost the partners $45,000 when they bought her in foal to Not This Time in 2017. Six months later, her first foal, the More Than Ready gelding Black Stetson, won a listed stakes race at Aqueduct, with Just One Time hitting the ground two weeks earlier. Ida Clark got in foal to Outwork and was sold for $60,000 only 13 months after Brown and McClay bought her.

The sting of her loss is eased by the success of Just One Time. "She went in with our regular trainer Mike Salvaggio at Penn National, and he informed us that she could run a little bit," Brown said.

He recalled when a rival trainer first noticed Just One Time on the track, and called to sing the filly's praises. "The people that watched her could sense it," Brown said. "She has always been on everybody's radar."

"[Salvaggio] took his time with her and did

Just One Time continued from page 1

everything right," he continued. "Instead of coming right out as an early 2-year-old he let her mature and develop. But even in those early morning gallops and breezes we had an idea that she'd be a good runner."

Run she did. Just One Time reached the races at the age of 3 and broke her maiden in her Penn National debut last May 14, scoring by a half-length after vying for the lead throughout. In start number two, she added the $102,695 Malvern Rose Stakes on the synthetic surface at Presque Isle Downs in July, rolling home four-and-a-quarter lengths in front.

"She can be a little sharp," Brown said. The filly's enthusiasm was her undoing in her third start, the $75,400 Lady Erie Stakes in August. Under jockey Angel Rodriguez, she dueled for the lead through fractions of :21.60 and :43.96 before fading to seventh in the lone loss of her career.

"Angel said she was too motored up," Brown explained. "She wanted the lead even though they were going so fast. She used herself up early."

Just One Time hasn't been beaten since. She took an allowance race on a sloppy track by six-and-a-quarter lengths on Sept. 22 before returning to stakes company to win the $121,295 New Start Stakes by nearly that same amount. Her speed and obvious talent drew the eye of Todd Mostoller, who bought in with his Commonwealth New Era Racing.

"He approached us wanting to buy her," Brown recalled. "His syndicate has a good group of guys."

Just One Time made another move, too, out of Pennsylvania and into the barn of top trainer Brad Cox. After training at the Fair Grounds, Just One Time shipped into Gulfstream Park in Florida for the Inside Information Stakes.

After acting up in the gate, Just One Time broke behind her usual speed, ran seventh early, ended up reeling in the field and won by three-quarters of a length under Joel Rosario. She ran the seven furlongs in 1:23.81.

"The phone's been ringing a little bit," Brown said, "but we're going to keep going to the races with her."

Just One Time has returned to the Fair Grounds and is pointing for graded competition at Keeneland this spring, possibly in the Grade 1 Madison, worth $500,000 to be run April 9 at seven furlongs.

"Everyone around her always knew she could run," said Brown. Just One Time proved it on a major stage as the Inside Information came on the Pegasus World Cup-G1 undercard.

It's possible that Brown will have enough down time between starts that his excitement level will return to normal before revving up again. But with nearly two dozen mares in foal to Warrior's Reward—and another expected to drop a Not This Time in March—Brown has plenty to keep his meter high. "We are really hoping that the Warrior's Rewards run well this year, because not only does he have the bulk of his foals born in Pennsylvania but he also covered mares from six other states," he said. "He's our number one favorite, but Not This Time is number two."

As the sire of Just One Time, Not This Time's importance to Brown checks out!

A few words from the Executive Secretary

If you haven't already heard, our new 2YO PA-Sired PA-Bred Stallion Series is the talk of the Mid-Atlantic region. Interested in nominating your 2YO? We've made it easy! It's FREE! Just call into the racing office at PARX by the early nomination deadline for PA Day at the Races.

The series will begin this year and consist of stakes races just for PA-Sired, PA-Bred colts and fillies. So, if you currently have a 2YO, make plans to shoot for the series beginning on Aug. 22 at Parx on PA Day at the Races, with two stakes, one for 2YO's and one for 2YO fillies with purses of $100,000. The second leg of the series will be held Sept. 24 at Parx on PA Derby Day, with two stakes, one for 2YO's and one for 2YO fillies with purses of $200,000! More info is available on pabred.com. This series is just another addition to what is already the best breeding program in the country.

Recently we made another donation of $150,000 to New Bolton Center for equine biomarker research. We are on the forefront of breeding organizations donating to this cutting-edge research. The teams at New Bolton Center are making great strides, and we look forward to what it means for the future of the industry.

If you haven't sent your mares, don't delay. A maiden breeder award for PA-Sired PA-Breds is a whopping 50%, and 40% for all other races. Non PA-Sired awards are 25% and 20% respectively.

We're getting back together live after two years off for our annual awards banquet honoring the champions of 2021 which will be held May 13 at The Inn at Mendenhall, located on Kennett Pike in Chadds Ford. Our guest speaker this year will be the Triple Crown-winning jockey of Affirmed, Steve Cauthen!! Don't miss it. Members should be receiving an email invitation. Be sure to RSVP and buy your tickets online.

PA foals of 2022 have started to arrive! Send us your foal photos with lineage, foaling date and location to be included in the 2022 Foal Gallery on the website and be featured on our social media accounts. Email photos and information to pabreeder@ pabred.com.

As always, if you have any questions about our program or if you're interested in joining the Thoroughbred breeding industry in Pennsylvania, please call our office at 610.444.1050. Go PA!!

PA Horse Breeders donate $150,000 to Penn Vet New Bolton Center for Biomarker, Blood Doping Research

In March, the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association (PHBA) presented a $150,000 donation to the Equine Pharmacology Laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine's (Penn Vet) New Bolton Center that will support continued revolutionary research in equine biomarkers.

The new round of PHBA funding—which will expand on the cutting-edge research that the PHBA helped to fund in 2018—will bolster three key research initiatives focused on improving the health and safety of equine athletes and enhancing integrity in racing. One area of research seeks to identify novel mRNA biomarkers that can help proactively predict if a horse is at risk for injury, even for injuries that are difficult or impossible to detect using conventional methods. Ultimately, researchers hope to develop a rapid stall-side blood test that could be administered prior to a race, helping racing officials accurately detect horses that may be at an elevated risk.

The funding will also support Penn Vet's sample collection for continued development of an Equine Biological Passport through the expansion of the Equine Pharmacology Laboratory's BioBank. Samples from the BioBank are analyzed to determine baseline levels of blood-based biomarkers found in racehorses. Once established, these baseline levels can be used to determine if blood samples taken from a horse pre- or post-race show any variations from baseline indicative of illness, injury or prohibited substances.

"The PHBA is very proud to continue its partnership with Penn Vet by providing an additional grant of $150,000 to fund this incredibly important and timely research program," said Deanna Manfredi, PhD, a member of the PHBA's Board of Directors. "This research program has the potential to have a very positive impact on the sport we all love and ensure its continued success through advances in preventing breakdowns, promoting equine health, and enhancing racing integrity."

"Studies are ongoing to develop an Equine Biological Passport using a variety of biomarkers," said Dr. Mary Robinson, Director of the Equine Pharmacology Laboratory at New Bolton Center. "For example, we now have potential protein and mRNA biomarkers of extracorporeal shockwave therapy that are being investigated using our Equine Biobank samples. This work would not have been possible without the support of the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association, who have provided the funding to expand and maintain the Equine Biobank, and the support of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission for my laboratory."

"I'm proud to see the continued collaboration between the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association and New Bolton Center. This partnership promotes integrity and safety in the horse racing industry," said State Representative Christina Sappey, who represents the 158th State House District. "The highly advanced research developed by Penn Vet's New Bolton Center is critically important to protect equine athletes, and PHBA's generous support makes this possible. We're fortunate to have both of these organizations that benefit all Pennsylvanians here in the 158th!"

In addition to the Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association's support, Penn Vet's New Bolton Center is also seeking additional funding to further expand and accelerate this research program. Individuals or organizations who would like to support the program through a financial donation are encouraged to contact Margaret Leardi, Director of Development for New Bolton Center, at mleardi@vet.upenn.edu.

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Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association
We ARE Pennsylvania Racing
April 2022

PARX MADNESS!

March 7, 2022
Bird King (*Tiznow - Bird Legacy by Mineshaft*) runs down the pacesetters with jockey **Angel Castillo** in the **$100,000 Washington Crossing Stakes** going 1 mile & 70 yards for trainer **Michael Pino** and owner **Greg Carlevale.**

PA Bred *Hey Mamaluke (Jump Start - Pu Dew by Lucky Lionel*) & apprentice jockey **Andy Hernandez** win the **$100,000 Penn's Landing Stakes** going 6 1/2 furlongs for owner/breeder **Joseph Capriglione** and trainer **Patricia Farro.**

Kisses For Emily overtakes Starship Laoban

NY Bred *Kisses For Emily* (Union Jackson - Caldwell by Malibu Moon) & jockey **Dylan Davis** run down the pacesetters with a win in the **$100,000 Society Hill Stakes** going 6 furlongs for trainer **Lou Linder, Jr.**, owners **BranJam Stable & David Clark**

The super fast *Hollywood Jet* (*Uncaptured - Travelator by A.P. Jet*) wins the **$100,000 Fishtown Stakes** with jockey **Luis Ocasio** riding going 6 furlongs for owner/trainer **Carlos Milian.**

March 8, 2022
PA Bred *Morning Matcha* (*Central Banker - Home Ice by Iam the Iceman*) & jockey **Frankie Pennington** win the **$100,000 Main Line Stakes** for trainer **Butch Reid, Jr.**, owners **Gary Barber, LC Racing LLC & Cash Is King LLC** going 1 mile & 70 yards.

Scaramouche (Munnings - Haunting by Bernardini) & jockey **Silvestre Gonzalez** win the **$100,000 Rittenhouse Square Stakes** for trainer **Guadalupe Preciado** & owner **Nicholas Cammarano, Jr.** going 6 furlongs.

PA Bred *Twisted Ride* (Great Notion - Diva's Gold by Tenpins) & jockey **Ruben Silvera** win the **$100,000 City of Brotherly Love Stakes** for trainer **Kate DeMasi,** owner/breeder Kasey K Racing Stable & owners **Michael Day & Final Turn Racing Stables LLC** going 1 & 1/16th mile.

Photos: PTHA/Chad Harmon

PTHA Trophy Race Winners

Date	Horse	Jockey	Trainer	Owner
3-09-22	Luna Fortuna	Jorge Vargas, Jr.	Ernesto Padilla-Preciado	Natalie Lynch
3-02-22	Wonder City	Edwin Rivera	Ruperto Perez	Guadalupe Perez Aguirre
2-23-22	Crabs N Beer	Jamie Rodriguez	Jamie Ness	Charles Blanford
2-16-22	Starship Laoban	Ruben Silvera	Jamie Ness	Morris Kernan, Jr & Jagger Inc.

PTHA Peeks

March 2, 2022

The high-energy filly *Cici Unified* won 1st time out with jockey **Dexter Haddock** riding for trainer **Carlos Soto** & owner **Perez Stables LLC** in the 10th & final race on the card going 6 furlongs.

What a rally to win the 6th race a $34,000 PA Bred Maiden Special Weight *ET's Moon* Maiden for owner/trainer **Gustavo Chacon** & breeder **Rich Miller** with jockey **Luis Rivera** aboard for the 6 furlongs.

Eleven-year-old *King's House* scored his 15th-lifetime win with 7 lb. apprentice jockey **Jose Antonio Gomez** for trainer **Patrick Ashton** & owner **Jx Racing** going 5 1/2 furlongs.

3/1/22

There was an emotion win with *Hard West* giving owner/trainer **Clarence King** his 1st win at Parx Racing with jockey **Jermaine Burke** dedicating his win to a special friend.

Kodapendent & jockey **Edwin Rivera** win in the going 1 mile & 70 yards for trainer **Butch Reid, Jr.** & owners **LC Racing LLC, Michael Milam, Smart Angle LLP, and Westerly Farm** with new groom Kevin Sanchez leading him into the winner's circle.

2/28/22

5 yr. old mare *Malibu Anthem* scores her 4th win in a row and a 1st win for new connections trainer **Ruperto Perez**, owner **Guadalupe Perez Aguirre** with jockey **Gerardo Milan** riding her to victory.

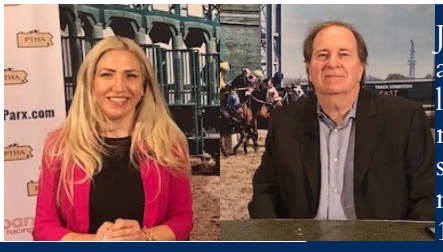
PA Bred *Empress Irene* runs them off their feet getting back-to-back wins with jockey **Ruben Silvera**, trainer **Mike Catalano, Jr.** & owner **Just In Time Racing LLC** going 6 furlongs.

2/23/22

My Friends Beer & jockey **Anthony Nunez** win the 10th race for trainer **Danny Velazquez** & owner **Burns Thoroughbred Racing LLC** going 1 mile & 70 yards pulling away from the field.

Lightly raced 5 yr. old mare *Parable* & jockey **Luis Ocasio** roll by the front runners to win for trainer **Lou Linder, Jr.** & owner **Over The Moon Racing Stable LLC.**

Let's Go Racing parx



Join hosts Dani Gibson and Dick Jerardi for the latest in Thoroughbred news, behind the scenes access, and more, every Saturday at 10 am on PHL-17!

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

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Web: www.patha.org
Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 am - 4 pm. Sat-Sun Closed

South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022

Racing Across the Nation

Three graduates of South Carolina training centers found the winner's circle following stakes races between Jan. 22 and Feb. 19.

On Jan. 22, Miss Mosaic proved best in the American Beauty Stakes at Oaklawn Park. Fourth out of the gate and while racing three wide, Miss Mosaic took the lead at the top of the stretch and in a hard-fought battle reached the finish line first by a head. This 6-year-old mare is owned by Keystone Racing LLC. She went through the breaking process at Travis Durr's Webb Carroll Training Center. In 19 career starts, she has recorded three wins, eight seconds and a third with career earnings of $292,759.

Wudda U Think Now broke sharply and set the pace in the Hollie Hughes Stakes at Aqueduct Feb. 19. She stretched her lead to 3½ lengths when the field straightened for home. While not threatened, this 5-year-old mare coasted home a 4½-length winner. Wudda U Think Now is owned by SCTOBA member Stuart Grant, the owner of the Camden Training Center. She has six wins, four seconds and a third in 14 career starts, earning $358,060. She was developed for her racing career by Donna Freyer's Custom Care Equine program.

On the same day, Luna Belle was the best in the Wide Country Stakes at Laurel Park. Luna Belle was last after the opening half-mile. She launched her bid while between horses before finding herself seven-wide in the stretch. Luna Belle dug down, putting in a strong, impressive rally to win by 3 lengths. This 3-year-old filly has finished first four times with a second and two thirds in only nine lifetime starts. She has earned $246,570. Luna Belle learned her early lessons under the watchful eye of Franklin "Goree" Smith at his Elloree Training Center. She is trained by Goree's brother, Hamilton Smith, who co-owns the filly with Deborah S. Greene. Luna Belle was bred in Maryland by Deborah, Hamilton and Fred S. Greene, Deborah's late father.

Madone 2021 Aiken Trained Horse of the Year

Madone (Vancouver-Aus—Indian Love Call, by Cherokee Run) has been named the 2021 Aiken Trained Horse of the Year. As a yearling, she was trained in Aiken by Cary Frommer. Kip Elser's Kirkwood Stables consigned her to the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company March Sale of Two-year-olds in Training in 2020. She was purchased by Kaleem Shah for $125,000. In 2021 as a 3-year-old, Madone ran six times, winning the Senorita Stakes-G3 at Santa Anita and the San Clemente Stakes-G2 at Del Mar. Her earnings in 2021 totaled $217,000.

Past winners of this award are Congaree, Wando, Dogwood Stable's Limehouse, Bob and John, Country Star, Midshipman, Quality Road, It's Tricky, Alpha, Dogwood Stable's Palace Malice, Curalina, Dickinson, Still Having Fun and Concrete Rose.

From the desk of....

• Congratulations to Goree Smith, who had two homebreds sired by his stallion Done Talking win in early February. Sweet Home Dixie recorded her eighth career victory in an allowance race at Laurel Park Feb. 12. The next day, Hummin' the Funk broke her maiden at Laurel Park. Both are trained by Goree's brother, Hamilton Smith.

• We will follow the progress of Zandon (Upstart—Memories Prevail, by Creative Cause), a 3-year-old colt listed on TDN's Derby 12. Zandon went through the breaking process at Travis Durr's Webb Carroll Training Center. In his debut this year he finished third in the $400,000 Risen Star Stakes-G2 at Fair Grounds in February.

Annual banquet enjoyed by all

Keynote speaker Damon Thayer makes a point. *Barry Bornstein photo*

The South Carolina Owners and Breeders Association's Annual Banquet was held at the National Steeplechase Museum in Camden Jan. 29. The evening began with a social hour followed by a delicious meal provided by Jack Brantley and Linda Fenter's Aberdeen Catery.

Opening remarks were made by Representative Russell Ott, Chairman

continued

Continued from page 1

of the South Carolina Equine Industry Support Measures Study Committee. He provided an update on the progress being made. A bill will soon be submitted to the South Carolina Legislative Assembly with the goal being to enhance the equine industry in our state.

Senator Damon Thayer was our keynote speaker. He is currently Kentucky's Senate Majority Floor leader. Senator Thayer has played important roles in the Thoroughbred industry. He helps guide bills through the legislative process on the Senate floor and acts as a key contributor in setting the policy agenda. He is a member of the Equine Issues Subcommittee in Kentucky. Senator Thayer's remarks provide a guiding light for our industry.

2021 Breeders Awards

Franklin "Goree" Smith was South Carolina's 2021 Breeder of the Year. Goree has earned this title 10 times in the past 12 years. During 2021, Goree's SC-breds earned $397,399. We congratulate Goree, his family and the whole crew at the Elloree Training Center for a job well done. The award winners for 2021 are:

Older Male Horse of the Year
DIXIE DRAWL
Breeder: Franklin "Goree" Smith
Owner: Mopo Racing

Older Mare of the Year
IZZYBELLA
Breeder: Jim Brinkley
Owner: Al Klerlein

Three-Year-Old Colt/ Gelding of the Year
EL PECADO
Breeder: John Witherspoon Foster
Owner: Ronal B. Abrams and Jack Abrams

Three-Year-Old Filly of the Year
PECULIARITY
Owner/Breeder: Franklin "Goree" Smith

South Carolina Breeder of the Year
FRANKLIN "GOREE" SMITH

SOUTH CAROLINA-TRAINED WINNERS

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
Cobble Road	Rentz Training Center	2/21/22	Parx Racing	Allowance
Nerves of Steel	Rentz Training Center	2/21/22	Santa Anita	Starter allowance
Hollis	McCutchen Training Center	2/20/22	Oaklawn Park	Allowance
WUDDA U THINK NOW	Custom Care - D. Freyer	2/19/22	Aqueduct	Hollie Hughes S
Novel Squall	McCutchen Training Center	2/19/22	Oaklawn Park	Allowance
Hit the Woah	Webb Carroll Training Center	2/19/22	Gulfstream Park	Allowance
Splitsecondsonny	Aiken - Cary Frommer	2/19/22	Turfway Park	Maiden special weight
Bernabreezy	Kirkwood Stables	2/18/22	Fair Grounds	Allowance
Beverly Park	McCutchen Training Center	2/18/22	Charles Town	Starter allowance
Always Mia	Aiken - R. Hammond	2/17/22	Charles Town	Maiden special weight
Talented Man	Webb Carroll Training Center	2/16/22	Parx Racing	Maiden special weight
Divine Miracle	Webb Carroll Training Center	2/16/22	Parx Racing	Starter allowance
Bye Bye Bertie	Elloree Training Center	2/13/22	Santa Anita	Starter allowance
Hoist the Gold	Webb Carroll Training Center	2/12/22	Fair Grounds	Allowance
Sweet Home Dixie	Elloree Training Center	2/12/22	Laurel Park	Allowance
Honor Your Mother	Elloree Training Center	2/12/22	Laurel Park	Starter allowance
New Hire	Rentz Training Center	2/11/22	Penn National	Maiden special weight
Water's Edge	Custom Care - D. Freyer	2/10/22	Aqueduct	Allowance
Rookie Salsa	Mason Springs	2/5/22	Charles Town	Allowance
I Can Run	Mason Springs	2/3/22	Laurel Park	Maiden special weight
Chelsea Wall	Rentz Training Center	2/1/22	Parx Racing	Starter allowance
LUNA BELLE	ElloreeTraining Center	1/29/22	Laurel Park	Wide Country S
Tick Tock	Elloree Training Center	1/28/22	Turf Paradise	Stater allowance
Beverly Park	McCutchen Training Center	1/27/22	Laurel Park	Allowance
Unequivocal	Elloree Training Center	1/27/22	Charles Town	Allowance
Far Mo Power	Rentz Training Center	1/26/22	Parx Racing	Allowance
Midnight Warship	Aiken - Cary Frommer	1/24/22	Mahoning Valley	Allowance
Allen	McCutchen Training Center	1/22/22	Tampa Bay	Allowance
MISS MOSAIC	Webb Carroll Training Center	1/22/22	Oaklawn Park	American Beauty S
Emerald Express	Webb Carroll Training Center	1/22/22	Mahoning Valley	Maiden special weight
Sunday Mischief	Aiken - Cary Frommer	1/22/22	Laurel Park	Maiden special weight
Seigneur	Kirkwood Stables	1/21/22	Tampa Bay	Maiden special weight
Torch of Truth	Custom Care - D. Freyer	1/21/22	Laurel Park	Allowance
Algebraic	McCutchen Training Center	1/21/22	Laurel Park	Allowance
Tony Small	Elloree Training Center	1/21/22	Tampa Bay	Starter allowance

VIRGINIA

COLONIAL DOWNS ANNOUNCES $3.5 MILLION STAKES SCHEDULE

Colonial Downs will card 20 of its 24 stakes on the Secretariat Turf Course (Coady Photography).

Colonial Downs, which kicks off its 27-day "More Racing, More Money" Thoroughbred racing season July 11, unveiled a $3.5 million stakes schedule highlighted by the 19th running of the Grade 3 Virginia Derby.

In all, 24 stakes will be contested over the 9-week campaign, 20 of which are scheduled for the Secretariat Turf Course, the widest grass racing surface in the country. Purses for the 2022 stakes program will increase by $850,000 over 2021 when $2,725,000 was distributed. Racing will take place every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 1:30 PM (EDT) through September 7.

Daily average purse monies will rise from $522,000 in 2021, to an expected $600,000 minimum this summer. Maiden special weight races will carry a $60,000 purse. The highly successful 2021 meet featured an average daily betting handle of $2,240,000. A total of $10.4 million in purse monies were distributed and average field size was a healthy 8.36 starters per race.

"With increased purses, an expanded stakes schedule and more race days, we are looking forward to hosting horsemen and women, players and patrons from across the country again this season," said Jill Byrne, Vice President Racing Operations. "Colonial Downs offers a fantastic facility for horses and staff and two of the best and safest surfaces for racing and training."

The $300,000 G3 Virginia Derby headlines a showcase day on Tuesday September 6 which includes four undercard turf stakes. The Commonwealth's richest annual race is open to 3-year-olds at 1-1/8 miles on grass. Purse for $200,000 Virginia Oaks increased by $50,000 over last year while the Da Hoss purse also rose by $50,000 to $150,000. The two remaining undercard events, the Rosie's and Kitten's Joy, each enjoy a $25,000 bump to $125,000.

The Mid Atlantic Thoroughbred Championship (MATCH) Series returns for a second straight year August 16 with a quartet of stakes worth a combined $600,000. A pair of dirt sprints, the Chesapeake and Seeking The Pearl, complement a pair of longer turf stakes, the Buckland and Old Nelson. Each will carry a $150,000 purse.

Opening and closing day programs at the expanded meet will feature a healthy slate of $125,000 stakes for horses with Virginia ties. The July 11 kickoff card includes four Virginia-bred/sired turf events. The Punch Line and Camptown are both 5½ furlongs, the latter for fillies & mares, while the Edward P. Evans and Brookmeade are at 1-1/16 miles, the latter again for females.

A four-pack of $150,000 Virginia-restricted stakes will help close out the meet on September 7. Open to Virginia-bred, -sired and -certified horses, offerings include the Meadow Stable, Tyson Gilpin, Bert Allen and Nellie Mae Cox Stakes. The $125,000 Jamestown Stakes for Virginia-bred/sired 2-year-olds is also on the season's final program.

Additionally, a pair of $150,000 Virginia-restricted dirt stakes for 2-year-olds will

occur mid-meet. The Hickory Tree and Keswick, both 5-furlong sprints, will be held August 9, the latter one for fillies.

New to the lineup this year is the Colonial Cup Stakes for 3-year-olds & up, which will be contested at 1½ miles on the turf July 25.

Colonial's meet-long steeplechase program will be highlighted by the $100,000 Randolph Rouse Stakes at 2 miles on August 22. A pair of NSA sanctioned jump races will be held on Mondays prior to the pari-mutuel flat program.

The stable area will open June 27 and horsemen will see continued backstretch improvements including free washing machines at each of the 14 barns, plus large tents, picnic tables and grills at each of the dorm building locations.

"Our horsemen are chomping at the bit for more summer racing with great purses at Colonial," said Frank Petramalo, Virginia HBPA Executive Director. "To help horsemen get good stable help, the VHBPA is sponsoring formal training programs for hot walkers and grooms. The VHBPA will also offer its usual benevolence programs, including medical/dental benefits, recreational programs, and our chaplaincy."

The complete stakes schedule, along with stall applications for the upcoming meet, can be found at www.colonialdowns.com/horsemen. The 2022 condition book will be available later this month.

Animal Kingston wins the Open Flat March 5 at Rappahannock Hunt's Point-to-Point kickoff meet (Douglas Lees photo)

Rappahannock Hunt Point-to-Point Kicks Off Virginia's Spring Season

Virginia's 2022 spring racing season kicked off March 5 with the Rappahannock Hunt Point-to-Point (PTP) at The Hill in Boston, VA. Fred Hertrich III's Animal Kingston, who closed out 2021 with a pair of hurdle wins at Middleburg and Foxfield, prevailed in the featured Open Flat. Graham Watters rode for trainer Neil Morris.

The PTP season continues with the Piedmont Fox Hounds March 26 in Upperville, the Old Dominion Hounds April 9 in Ben Venue, the Blue Ridge Hunt April 17 in Berryville, the Loudoun Hunt April 24 in Leesburg and the Middleburg Hunt May 1 at Glenwood Park. More details can be found at centralentryoffice.com.

The NSA sanctioned meet schedule includes the Middleburg Spring Races April 23 followed by the Foxfield Spring Races in Charlottesville April 30 and the Virginia Gold Cup May 7 in The Plains.

Cavalier Cupid won the 2021 Keswick Stakes at Colonial. The purse of this year's edition increases to $150,000 from $100,000 last year (Coady Photography)

Extravagant Kid wins the Group I Al Quoz Stakes in Dubai last March (Photo provided by David Ross)

Virginia-Owned Extravagant Kid Is Retired After Earning $1.7 Million

Extravagant Kid, owned by Virginia businessman and Colonial Downs' all-time leading owner David Ross, has been retired from racing at the age of 9.

The Kiss the Kid gelding finished his brilliant career with $1,704,683 in purse earnings from 54 starts which includes 15 wins. Ross claimed the horse four years ago and has earned about $1.5 million of that purse money under his stewardship. He, along with trainer Brendan Walsh and Racing Manager James Bredin, are all committed to finding the right next home for Extravagant Kid.

"We are on a mission to find him the perfect place because he has brought so much joy to everyone who has been a part of his life," said Ross. "He will thrive in his second career, possibly as a riding horse because he loves to do trails. We want to make sure he is happy and productive going forward."

Ross, who has had graded stakes winners with Scuba, Honorable Duty and Proforma, said his biggest thrill as an owner was Extravagant Kid's victory in the $1 Million, Group 1 Al Quoz Sprint Stakes last March in Dubai.

Virginia Thoroughbred Association

President: Susan Cooney Vice-President: Amy Moore Treasurer: Turner Kobayashi Past President: Gillian Gordon-Moore
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Virginia Breeders Fund

West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter April 2022

Raymond "Randy" Funkhouser II

By Jeff Gilleas

As a young man, I was obsessed with horse racing, baseball, the military, religion and driven to seek an answer to this question "How do you quantify a man's life?" It probably seems a rather strange inquiry for a 12-year-old to pose of older and more distinguished individuals, but the world in which I was raised wasn't your average *Brady Bunch* sitcom.

For example, take the gentleman my father shared an office with for years – Marine Corps Brigadier General Sam Shaw. Every wall was adorned with pictures of tanks, planes, medals and letters of commendation. It was an homage to a career spent in service to his country. One Saturday morning, as I waited for my father to finish some business related chores, I mustered the nerve to interrogate Gen. Shaw. His steely eyes pierced back at me, as he moved in my direction reacting to my unusual query. Placing his hand on my head, as if to anoint me, he gestured to pictures surrounding us and firmly stated, "Son, the measure of a man is not found in his death, but in how he lived his life."

I never forgot those prophetic words.

Randy Funkhouser was a man of faith, vision, ideals, family and passion about Thoroughbred horse racing. The first time I drove by pastoral O'Sullivan Farms, it was as if I was transported back in time.

Founded in 1939, the land once settled by George Washington's family is home to a long tradition of breeding and racing quality horses. For four generations, the family has owned and operated their farm, a landmark for excellence. They currently stand Aldrin, Capo Bastone, Declan's Warrior, During, Gattopardo, Golden Years, Limehouse and Our Entourage.

My initial impression of Randy Funkhouser was that of an enthusiastic teacher preparing to address his knowledge-hungry students. On any given morning, you could find the former President of the Horseman's Benevolent and Protection Association hastily getting out of his car with mounds of paperwork in tow. A tireless advocate for farmland preservation, the Racetrack Chaplaincy, West Virginia Breeders Classics and the proliferation of racing/breeding in his beloved Jefferson County, Randy instilled in his sons John and Joe the family legacy of unrelenting service to this industry.

A graduate of Stanford University, Randy is survived by his wife of 46 years, Clissy.

An ambassador for his cherished sport, Randy maintained an open-door policy at the HBPA office, and in my experience never refused any request for assistance by horsemen or was too busy to explain the most difficult pending legislation critical to our survival.

During this period of extreme altruistic commitment, Randy and O'Sullivan Farm would campaign one of the greats in local turfdom, Confucius Say. The colossal son of Eastover Court out of the Feel the Power mare Mo Chun raced a total of 42 times with 19 wins, eight seconds and five thirds, amassing an impressive $1,037,555 in earnings.

As a 2-year-old, the generational talent captured the West Virginia Futurity, signaling the start to a brilliant career. The following year, Confucius Say would win the Bill Hartack Stakes, Strike the Gold Handicap, $250,000 West Virginia Breeders Classic, with placings in the Ben Jones Handicap and out-of-state treks in the Virginia Derby, Vincent Moscarelli Memorial and Labor Day Handicap. In his 4-year-old season his sizable natural ability reached full maturity, when he left

the comfortable confines of his home base to win the Red Dog Stakes at Delaware Park, crushing his opposition with an eye-catching 115 Equibase speed figure.

Confucius would duplicate that supreme effort when annihilating his field in the Breeders Classic by nearly 12 lengths, seizing back-to-back renditions of the ultimate year-end goal. Due to an injury, fans were forced to wait until May 2006 before seeing his triumphant return to the track.

Commemorating the patience and horsemanship of Randy Funkhouser and trainer George Yetsook, the grand-looking equine specimen won the West Virginia Onion Juice Breeders Classic and was second in Delaware Park's Stymie Handicap after more than three years away from the races. The next year, at age 9, he blew away the competition in the $100,000 Charles Town Dash Invitational by a double-digit margin and defended his title in the West Virginia Breeders Classic (through disqualification), making this race a life's three-peat event. He was also a multiple stakes winner at 10.

Another winning machine born and raised on the fertile O'Sullivan Farm soil was the legendary distaff runner Julie B. The picturesque daughter of Eastover Court out of Ashby Inn, by Feel the Power, was a model of consistency, starting 33 times, winning 15 races, with seven seconds and four thirds. Her lifetime earnings were just shy of $900,000. Notable performances included being a dual victor of the prestigious WVBC Cavada Stakes as well as the Roger Van Hoozer Memorial, plus six other stakes wins.

Fast forward to today and O'Sullivan Farms appears poised to be a commercial success and home to the next generation of racing's leaders. Recent prosperity has come in the shape of gifted 3-year-old Jungle Beast, a strikingly handsome son of Golden Years, out of Jungle Diamond (by Jump Start). Impacting the potential longevity of the farms' upward mobility, Jungle Beast has reeled off three wins in a row and most importantly the lucrative West Virginia Futurity.

Golden Years is a son of Not For Love out of Sweet Annuity (by Oh Say) bred by O'Sullivan Farms. He is familiar to regional supporters of the game being trained by legendary Rodney Jenkins, and scoring in the Maryland Million Nursery and Marylander Stakes in five starts.

Another stalwart in the O'Sullivan Farm line-up is the grand-looking 5-year-old Nico. The son of Trappe Shot—Cleft in the Rock, by Arch, has 11 first and second place finishes in 13 starts for trainer Javier Contreras, while sporting runner-up efforts in the Henry Mercer Memorial and WV Vincent Moscarelli Memorial Breeders Classic.

If the Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races gave an award for creative names surely Bubba Grump would be a finalist. The O'Sullivan Farms homebred is a skilled son of Successful Appeal out of Shesagrumptoo, by Luftikus, and can out foot the best of them in his sprint category. Winner of seven of 12 races, the hard knocker boasts a solid bankroll of $143,000.

In the last six months we've lost two icons in the Sport of Kings: Sam Huff and Randy Funkhouser. Both individuals are assured of their position on the Mount Rushmore of West Virginia Thoroughbred racing. Sam for his support of the local product and creation of the West Virginia Breeders Classics and Randy for solidifying a fragmented industry, dedicating his life to the sport and the animals that make it special, while using his power for just and noble causes.

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Course correction

Credit NSA president Randy Rouse with innovative solution to sticky problem

By Betsy Burke Parker

It was autumn of 1973, and the world was in turmoil. U.S. forces were pulling out of Vietnam, the Watergate scandal was rocking the nation and a looming energy crisis was getting global traction.

The steeplechase circuit, too, was in a state of flux. The year before, the bottom had fallen out of the industry, New York basically kicking out the jumpers and going from 83 races at Belmont, Aqueduct and Saratoga in 1970 to 15, at Saratoga only, in '73. Monmouth and Delaware Park curbed their 'chase cards, too, and steeplechasing seemed in a death spiral.

Jump racing was changing, though only a very few recognized that the jumps themselves may be at root of the problem.

The mood was dark.

Off-track betting played a role in the New York debacle as racetracks tightened their belts when OTBs changed the revenue stream to higher mutuel pools but lower turnstile traffic.

But it was the labor and expense of building all-new fences each season at each track that was the final straw. Cut cedar was hard to come by, and costly, and jumps represented hundreds of man hours.

Into this tumult stepped an unlikely superhero, an unassuming Washington, D.C. area builder.

Today, some 49 years later, Randy Rouse is widely credited as the savior of steeplechasing. Though the three-time National Steeplechase and Hunt Association president died at age 100 in 2017, Rouse is considered a visionary.

Rouse was an ardent amateur jockey and avid foxhunter, master of Virginia's Fairfax Hunt. Each year during U.S. 'chasing's winter break, Rouse went to Ireland to hunt, "to stay fit and sharp" for the spring point-to-point circuit, he said in a 2013 interview.

Randy Rouse in 2007 *©Douglas Lees*

Though he may not have recognized its reach at that moment, a chance meeting in the winter of '73 and something Rouse spied on a wind-whipped, rain-lashed country course in Ireland remains today a critical component to the continued success of American steeplechasing.

The creation narrative of the so-called "national fence" reads like an adventure novel, with Rouse himself as provocateur and firebrand of a near-impossible revolution. There were twists and turns to the tale, and a tense 11th hour showdown, but the story has a happy ending, with the principals riding off into a 21st century sunset.

How it happened

When he began riding races in the '60s, Rouse said fences were living hedges or clipped brush. He didn't so much pine for the old days, he said in a 2016 interview, as much as recognize a looming issue.

"There's nothing like change," he said. "You know it won't stay the same. When I saw where (the sport was) headed, I knew something had to change."

In winter of 1973, Rouse met Lord Harrington, master of Ireland's Limerick Hunt. Amiable conversation quickly revealed a shared passion for steeplechasing – Harrington hosted Limerick's spring point-to-point, and as Fairfax joint-master, Rouse was in charge of his club's fall meet. Rouse heard that Harrington had developed a synthetic steeplechase fence because of the difficulty obtaining enough natural birch in Ireland to contruct jumps.

As in America, it was an expensive, relentless, labor-intensive nightmare.

Rouse and NSHA executive secretary Jack Cooper went to the Limerick races to see how the course rode. They liked what they saw, and Rouse – who was a builder, operating a busy construction firm outside Washington, had the resources to modify and tweak it to better suit American racing. They arranged to have several sections of fence to be flown to the U.S. and set to work to make it an original.

"Mr. Rouse had them sitting in his front field, I remember it," said Kevin Palmer, an amateur jump rider who rode in the very first race over the new jumps, later becoming Fairfax huntsman. Palmer still trains for Rouse's estate. "He had a lot of ideas. He tried wheels (on the rolls and metal frames) because he was worried about how to move them. That didn't work.

"He was always trying to improve on the design."

By mid-summer Rouse was at last pleased with the prototype, and he "took the bit in his teeth," according to the 1973 NSHA yearbook. He had a set of jumps made for his Fairfax fall meet.

Rouse was certain the jumps would standardize racing across the circuit, solving a lot of problems for NSHA and race meet hosts. Association officials inspected the course and gave a thumbs-up for three hurdle races.

There was just one more group to convince, and Rouse knew they'd be the hardest sell of all.

Jockeys.

The big day

The 1973 Fairfax Races were run at "the old Bowman property," today part of densely developed Reston, a meticulously planned "new urbanism" community started in the late 1960s. The tract was part of an original land grant to England's Thomas, Lord Fairfax before the Revolutionary War.

Fairfax Hunt was founded by the Bowman distillery family on their 6,000-acre Sunset Hills farm in 1928, in 1933 recognized by the Master of Foxhounds Association. The club's racecourse was a sweeping oval encircling farm fields, Kevin Palmer recalled, high land overlooking a Difficult Run feeder creek.

The track is long gone, of course, leveled under homes and Reston's commercial development; only the road names give up its heritage – Steeplechase Drive, Paddock Lane, Stirrup Road, Whip Road, Tack Lane, Canter Lane. Two that nod to the sport's deeper roots – Birch Place and Cedar Road.

"It was a nice track," said Palmer, a 10-pound bug at the time, a kid playing with the big boys at that Sept. 22, 1973 Fairfax Races meet. "It was left-handed, pretty level and wide. There was a little hill – down then up – on the backside."

Rouse was excited and nervous, he said in a 2016 interview, for the fence reveal. "I knew the horsemen would balk at first, but I knew we needed it, and I knew it would work."

"Balk" was putting it lightly, said Rouse's widow, Michelle, recalling conversations with Randy as he chuckled at the collective jockey reaction.

"There was complete uproar" at the racecourse that day, Michelle said, saying Randy was ever-diplomatic addressing riders' concerns. "You know how he was, so smart, so smooth. He told everybody to calm down, ride the first race and see how it went."

Jerry Fishback remembers. The steeplechase Hall of Famer, five-time leading rider and third-leading jump rider in American history recalls the one win that day at Fairfax that, in essence, pushed him over the 300 mark to 301 lifetime wins.

The ground was firm that day, Fishback said, and the day warm.

"I was already riding for (Jonathan) Sheppard, so I didn't always go down to the Virginia meets," Fishback said. "But I'd taken some mounts, including one for J. Arthur Reynolds in the second. It was a maiden over hurdles, over those new jumps."

Fishback partnered Reynolds' homebred Gun Gold, a 4-year-old who'd broken his point-to-point maiden that spring under Ted Gregory. It was Fishback's first time on the horse.

When reminded of the initial protests from the jockey colony, Fishback said he doesn't recall. "What I do know is that we eventually just went out and rode like it was completely normal."

Fishback and Skip Brittle on Too Far Gone were stirrup to stirrup headed to the first. Too Far Gone reached it a neck in front, getting the asterisk in history as the first horse to reach the first national fence in the first race.

After that, it was all Gun Gold.

"They rode well," Fishback said. "The old stuffed cedar jumps could be softer and smaller, but sometimes they were bigger and stiffer. That was the beauty of this new jump – it standardized steeplechasing."

Fishback and Gun Gold were 2 ½ in front at the wire, the win one of Fishback's 24-win championship season that year. In all, 19 horses jumped 36 fences in three races that day, with no fallers, no pull-ups. The other two hurdle races were won by Kip Elser and Joe Aitcheson.

"Everybody was so scared of them that morning," Palmer said. "But, I mean, hell, it was just a jump. It was fine."

So encouraging was the result, New Jersey's Far Hills races a month later also used the jumps, and in 1974, Peter Winants wrote in his "Steeplechasing: A Complete History," "most hunt meets had switched over. Delaware Park was the first track to use that fence the next summer.

"Traditionalists initially … had difficulty accepting the national fence," Winants wrote. "But steeplechasing would not have survived without the national fence. It's far and away the most important development of the era. The sport is deeply indebted to the foresight and perseverance of Rouse and Cooper."

"I think Mr. Rouse was ahead of his time," Fishback echoed. "He deserves all the accolades.

"It was an excellent idea, a real vision. I think Mr. Rouse's foresight was amazing thinking we're talking about this almost 50 years later, the exact fence we're still using today."

National fence: What is it?

- A man-made, portable fence used in all U.S. hurdle races, the national fence was loosely designed on British "sheep hurdles" used in England and Ireland.
- Each jump measures 53 inches high with black plastic "brush" stuffed into an angled metal frame, fronted by a 36-inch green tarp-covered foam roll. White ground lines and knee lines were added to the design in the last decade.
- Four or five eight-foot sections are used for most fences.
- The jumps are portable and can be moved from course to course and shared around the circuit. There are three sets of national fences in use today, with a more recent innovation, the SafTFence, being used at Charlotte and a few other southern NSA meets.
- Jumps are delivered to racetracks by truck and trailer can can be set up in a few hours with a few volunteers and a tractor. They can be swiftly disassembled and pulled aside in minutes to allow for turf racing.

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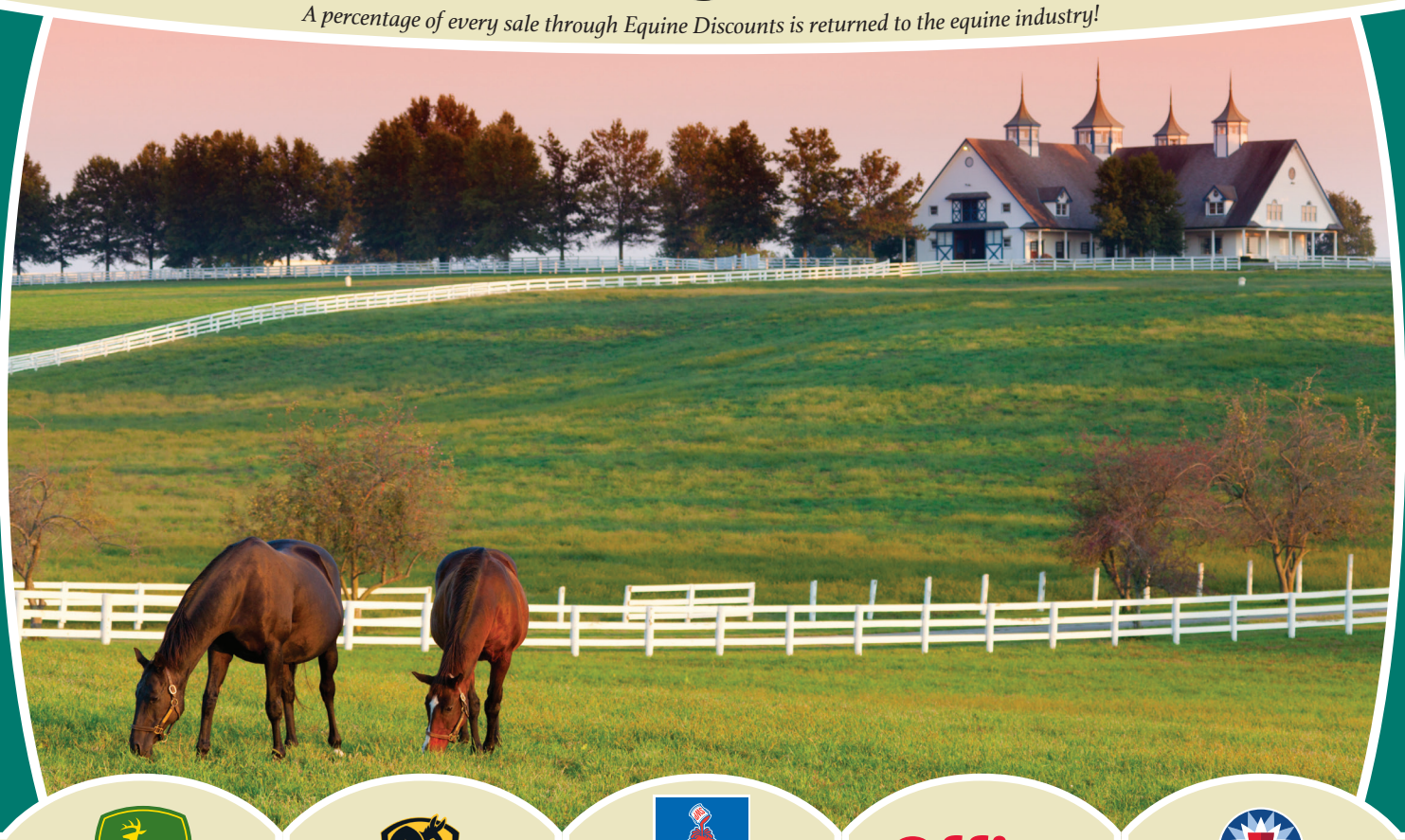

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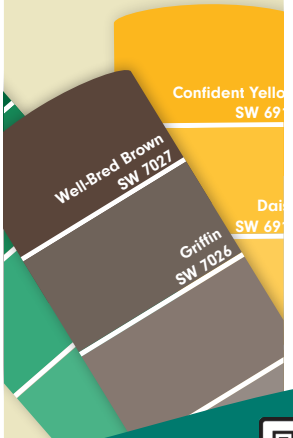

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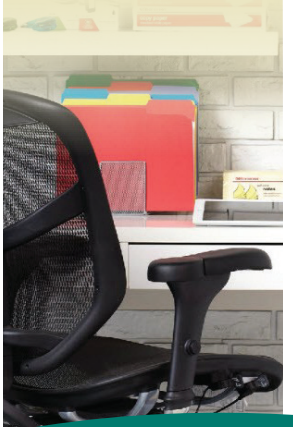

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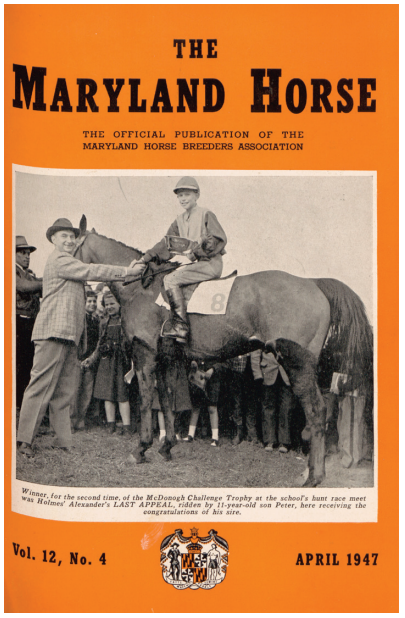
THE
MARYLAND HORSE
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MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Winner, for the second time, of the McDonogh Challenge Trophy at the school's hunt race meet was Holmes' Alexander's LAST APPEAL, ridden by 11-year-old son Peter, here receiving the congratulations of his sire.
Vol. 12, No. 4
APRIL 1947

75 years ago

■ During the Maryland Racing Commission's roundtable meeting in March, Harry Parr III announced that the Maryland Jockey Club would operate the Laurel racetrack purely as an independent investment and would continue plans to relocate and construct an entirely new Pimlico track.

"We have no intention of combining the Pimlico and Laurel meetings at Laurel and requesting twice the amount of racing days," said Parr. "We have discovered that the present Pimlico property is much too inadequate to even suggest rebuilding a new plant there."

Parr added that when Pimlico did move, a site as close to Baltimore as possible would be chosen.

■ A statement of policy for Thoroughbred racing was announced, with the adoption of a code of standards by the board of directors of the Thoroughbred Racing Association of the United States representing 35 member tracks throughout the country. The code of standards included 16 points ranging from respecting and protecting the public, to ensuring that the sport aspect remains fair and just.

■ After King Rhymer set a new 3-furlong record at Santa Anita in February, the Pistorios decided to cancel their plans to bring his 9-year-old sire The Rhymer back to the races and instead opted for him to return to stud.

■ "Shipped out another car of mares to Kentucky this morning. The fact that so many mares are visiting good sires in the Blue Grass will serve to improve the general standing of the local Thoroughbreds, it would seem. We need more good young horses here to keep the mares at home," wrote Humphrey S. Finney in his monthly Editor's Saddle Bag column.

50 years ago

■ Frank Alexander, a 34-year-old native of Long Island, was celebrating one year as Sagamore Farm's manager. Not originally from a horse family, Alexander got his start with horses when he was 16 working in a hunter stable and later broke yearlings on Capt. Harry Guggenheim's Long Island farm, before joining the Air Force in 1957. After a few years running his own business of buying and selling horses, he switched paths and began galloping horses for Alfred Vanderbilt's trainer Mike Freeman, later taking on the role of his assistant trainer.

"I was always having offers from other people to train their horses while I was working for Mike, but he kept telling me to wait. I got kind of tired of waiting for five years. Now I see how worthwhile it was. I think Mike kind of put the bug in Mr. Vanderbilt's ear. We worked together closely, and we work together closely now. He's been a big help to me since I've been [at Sagamore]."

■ G.F.T. Ryall wrote about Bowie in the 1920s, as he shared an "apocryphal account of its beginning," started with Gad Bryan, Jim O'Hara, and Carter Hall out rabbit hunting and stopping for a rest in a clearing about halfway between Baltimore and Washington. "As the tale goes, someone suggested this would be a good place to build a race track," he wrote.

And in October 1914, Bowie presented its inaugural meet. "A list of the top horses that ran at Bowie would be as long as your arm. Equipoise made his first start there as a 2-year-old," Ryall wrote. The most important race of the autumn meet was the Bryan and O'Hara Memorial Handicap, and among its winners were Lucky Hour, Sarazen, Misstep, Bateau, Sun Beau and Chase Me.

Bowie's steel and concrete grandstand, shown in 1933 photo, replaced original wooden one which burned down in 1926.

■ The way Frank A. Bonsal Jr. looked at the Maryland Hunt Cup, the race was an extension of the foxhunting season and should never base its appeal on a large, whopping purse. A 35-year-old investment banker, a general partner in Alex Brown & Sons, Bonsal was a past winner (1956) of the 4-mile timber classic, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, who were both Maryland Hunt Cup riders.

"If money is a man's goal, he has no place in timber racing," he said. "You've got to want to do it for the fun you get out of it."

Bonsal wanted to avoid a big purse that would attract horses who were specialists in steeplechasing, rather than bringing in top-class hunters who were concluding their seasons in the world's most difficult timber event.

■ Gaining her sixth stakes victory, Alma North won Hialeah's $50,000 Black Helen under top weight of 120. Bred by J. I. B. Farms, Alma North, a daughter of Northern Dancer, was the defending Maryland-bred Horse of the Year.

25 years ago

■ As of 1997, the American Horse Council Federation documented that the national horse industry was a $25.3 billion business, with Maryland's horse industry boasting a $1.5 billion impact to the economy. At that time, around 82,900 Marylanders were involved in the industry as owners, service providers, employees and volunteers, with a total employment impact of 20,000. Additionally, there were 82,000 horses in Maryland, with more than 60-percent involved in showing and recreation.

■ Maryland-bred Wicapi was named the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association's 1996 claimer of the year. The Waquoit gelding out of the Lord Gaylord mare Muffies Muffin was claimed for $20,000 by Joseph Calascibetta in January 1996, as he climbed through the ranks to win five races at Calder, taking the Flying Pigeon and Thanksgiving Day Handicaps and finishing third in the Tropical Park Handicap-G3. He also set a track record of 2:05 for 1¼ miles while winning an allowance race in June.

Wicapi, bred by Mr. and Mrs. Charles McGinnes, made 67 starts over six seasons, retiring in 2000 with 18 wins and $671,616 earned.

■ Maryland joined three other states participating in the Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Championship series, designed to eliminate conflicts in the regional racing schedule, thus providing more opportunities for horses to compete. MATCH consisted of 35 stakes worth a combined $3.5 million, organized into five divisions with seven races in each.

The MATCH Series went on to run for five years, through 2001, before a 16-year hiatus. The Series returned in 2018. Last year's overall championship horse was Hillwood Stable's Cordmaker, trained by Rodney Jenkins.

■ Latin Dancer sent shockwaves through the local Thoroughbred industry a year and a half prior, as his selling price of $210,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Eastern Fall sale toppled all previous records for a yearling at Timonium.

Since then, the son of Maryland stallion Citidancer had become one of the top 3-year-old turf performers on the West Coast. In just 12 starts, he had amassed $147,218, with three wins, three seconds, and one third. Most notably, Santa Anita's $100,000 Baldwin Stakes-G3 became his greatest achievement.

■ Bill Reightler, then manager of Chanceland Farm, had excellent advice for individuals looking to present yearlings at the MHBA Yearling Show at Timonium. With eight Chanceland winners, two champions and two reserve champions leading into 1997, Reightler was a good person to follow. His tips included bathing, braiding, showing and after the show advice.

10 years ago

■ The Maryland Bred Fund celebrated 50 years. In 1962, House Bill 106 created the Maryland Bred Fund, rewarding the state's Thoroughbred breeders and owners by increasing the pari-mutuel wagering takeout one percent and earmarking the additional revenue to purses and bonuses for horses born in the state. The move created the first state-bred bonus program in the United States and immediately upgraded Maryland's Thoroughbred industry. The legislative move lifted an industry and launched a renaissance, changing the landscape of Thoroughbred racing forever.

■ Shortly after winning her final start and being retired from racing, Brazilian Wedding returned to competition and carried eventer Eric Dierks to victory in the Retired Racehorse Trainer Challenge.

The trainer challenge was a venture of the Retired Racehorse Training Project, founded by Maryland Horse Council president Steuart Pittman. Trainers had five weeks of at-home training before returning to the Pennsylvania Horse World Expo in Harrisburg to show off their progress in front of the judges—top-level eventer James Wofford, CANTER Mid-Atlantic founder Allie Conrad and author Alex Brown.

Dierks chose Brazilian Wedding for the challenge, and Pat Dale's then 6-year-old mare became a fan favorite as she showed off her willing disposition and athletic build. The Canadian-bred daughter of Milwaukee Brew started her career in her home country and wound up making several Mid-Atlantic stops, including her final career start—a $4,500 claiming win at Charles Town in December 2011 for trainer Kevin Patterson.

The Sleeter family's millionaire Who's the Cowboy, a son of farm stallion Intensity, recorded his 20th victory at Penn National in 2012.

■ For the 20th time in his long career, Who's the Cowboy stood in the winner's circle, having just captured a $35,360 optional claiming race at Penn National in February. By the late Sleeter Farm stallion Intensity, Who's the Cowboy was out of the Better Arbitor mare Image's Image. His older sister, Eleven North, was a three-time New Jersey-bred champion who had a stakes race named after her.

Who's the Cowboy made his debut as a 2-year-old in 2004, placed in three stakes at Monmouth and Meadowlands that year, and captured his first stakes, the Rumson, in 2005. He won four consecutive stakes in 2006 and placed in five stakes in 2007. He added two more stakes wins in 2008 and competed through the 2013 season.

In 88 starts, Who's the Cowboy finished with those 20 wins and 30 placings and earnings of $1,138,867. He was profiled—along with his sister—in Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*'s Pensioner on Parade feature in November 2020.*

■ Longtime Maryland owner/breeder Sondra Bender died Feb. 22 after a long battle with uterine cancer. Sondra and her husband and racing partner, Howard Bender, were Maryland's Breeder of the Year from 2001 to 2003. Sondra herself won five Maryland Million races as an owner, four as a breeder.

In 2012, Bender's horses won 13 stakes and more than $1.3 million. The Benders and their trainer, Larry Murray, enjoyed the success of many Maryland-bred champions, including La Reine's Terms, Secret Odds, and Promenade Girl, Saratoga graded stakes winner King's Nest, and dozens of other homebreds launched from their Glade Valley Farm in Frederick, Md. The Benders were married for 60 years.

"Here's Betting": The bookies took action at My Lady's Manor Point-to-Point in 1937, when a field of 10 went postward in the timber classic. Future star Blockade, 10-1 here and winner of the Maryland Hunt Cup in 1938, 1939 and 1940, was just getting started and finished off the board in a race won by Tertius (spelling didn't count on the bookie's chalkboard). Owned by Mrs. Francis Garvan, the winner was one of four on the day for trainer Victor Noyes and part of a triple for jockey Morgan Macy.

Photojournalist A. Aubrey Bodine, who worked at the Baltimore *Sun* for 50 years – from 1920 until his death in 1970 – captured many scenes of Maryland horses, farms and racing. He was regarded worldwide as one of the finest pictorialists of the 20th century. *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* features his work in Past Time.

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Eclipticalspraline

Ecliptical - Ms. Mostly, by Copelan

By the sire of multiple SWs, including the 2nd dam of **AMERICAN PHAROAH**; out of a Graded SW

$1,500 LF

Engage - New for 2022

Into Mischief - Nefertiti, by Speightstown

Only GSW by **INTO MISCHIEF** in NE/Mid-Atlantic; GSW at 2 & 4; $800,000+ earner; ran **104 Beyer** in BC Sprint-G1

$5,000 LF

Galawi (IRE) - New for 2022

Dubawi (IRE) - Galikova (FR), by Galileo (IRE)

By world's leading sire out of a G1W 1/2-sister to Hall of Famer **GOLDIKOVA (IRE)**; Belmont winner in only U.S. start

$2,000 LF

Golden Lad

Medaglia d'Oro - Broadway Gold, by Seeking the Gold

2nd Leading Maryland sire in 2021; sire of 8x SW **HELLO BEAUTIFUL** ($587,820, sold for $410,000 KEEJAN2022)

$5,000 LF

Great Notion

Elusive Quality - Evening Primrose, by Dayjur

#1 Maryland sire 2018 - 2021; **9 BT Winners**/15 BT horses total in 2021; **$82,000+** average earnings/runner

$7,500 LF

Hoppertunity

Any Given Saturday - Refugee, by Unaccounted For

Won/placed in **9 G1s**, incl. wins in Clark H. & Jockey Club Gold Cup; earned **$4.7 million+**; first foals 2YOs this year

$5,000 LF

Irish War Cry

Curlin - Irish Sovereign, by Polish Numbers

Won Wood Memorial-***G2***, Holy Bull-**G2**; Pimlico Special-**G3**, 2nd Belmont S.-**G1**; first foals 2YOs this year

$6,500 LF

Madefromlucky

Lookin At Lucky - Home From Oz, by Pulpit

Multiple GSW, incl. Peter Pan-**G2**; by a champion out of a full sister to **TAPIT**; first crop incl. SW **EPIC LUCK**

$4,000 LF

Uncle Lino

Uncle Mo - Haysee, by Orientate

Maryland's **#1** second crop sire in 2021, incl. **$1.8 million+** in progeny earnings and **5 BT** horses; **G1** TR setter by **UNCLE MO**

$4,000 LF

Northview STALLION STATION

northviewstallions.com
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Paul O'Loughlin: 443.566.2996 (cell), paul@northviewstallions.com
55 Northern Dancer Drive, Chesapeake City, MD 21915

2022 Colonial Downs

MORE DAYS MORE MONEY

July 11 thru Sept 7
Monday–Wednesday
1:30 post

STAKES SCHEDULE

Monday, July 11: $125,000 Virginia Bred/Sired Stakes
- **Punch Line**, 3 & up, 5.5f, turf
- **Camptown**, 3 & up, f&m, 5.5f, turf
- **Edward P. Evans**, 3 & up, 1 m., turf
- **Brookmeade**, 3 & up, f&m, 1 1/16, turf

Monday, July 18: $150,000 Open Stakes
- **Van Clief,** 3 & up, 5.5 f, turf
- **Andy Guest**, 3 & up, f&m, 5.5 f, turf

Monday, July 25: $150,000 Open Stakes
- **Colonial Cup**, 3 & up, 1 ½ m., turf

Tuesday, Aug. 9: $150,000 stakes VA Restricted Stakes
Bred/sired/certified, ***includes $50,000 for Va.bred/sired***
- **Hickory Tree**, 2 year old, 5 f, dirt
- **Keswick**, 2 year old fillies, 5 f, dirt

Tuesday, Aug. 16: MATCH Series $150,000 Open Stakes
- **Chesapeake**, 3 & up, 6 f, dirt
- **Seeking the Pearl**, 3 & up, f&m, 7 f, dirt
- **Buckland**, 3 & up, 1 1/8, turf
- **Old Nelson**, 3 & up, f&m, 1 1/16 turf

Monday, Aug. 22: $100,000 Open Steeplechase Stakes
- **Randolph Rouse**, 4 & up, f&m, 2 miles (hurdle)

Tuesday, Sept. 6: Open Stakes
- **Rosie's**, 2 year old, $125,000, 5.5, turf
- **Kitten's Joy**, 2 year old, $125,000, 1 1/16, turf
- **G3 Virginia Derby**, 3 year old, $300,000, 1 1/8, turf
- **Virginia Oaks** listed, 3 year old, fillies, $200,000, 1 1/8, turf
- **DaHoss**, 3 & up, $150,000, 5.5, turf

Wednesday, Sept. 7: $150,000 VA Restricted Stakes
Bred/sired/certified, ***includes $50,000 for Va.bred/sired***
- **Meadow Stable**, 3 & up, 5.5 f, turf
- **Tyson Gilpin**, 3 & up, f&m, 5.5 f, turf
- **Bert Allen**, 3 & up, 1 1/16, turf
- **Nellie Mae Cox**, 3 & up, f&m, 1 1/16, turf

Wednesday, Sept. 7: $125,000 Virginia Bred/Sired Stakes
- **Jamestown**, 2 year old, 5.5 f, turf

Stall applications and Condition Book available at ColonialDowns.com

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